

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, April 26, 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 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. It was noted that Councilmember Jay Flowers was not present at this meeting.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Mobley 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 April 26, 2021, as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler, and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged there were no citizens to be heard at this meeting.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Mobley motioned to adopt the agenda as presented, with no exceptions. Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mayor Hobbs, Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler, and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items for consideration under Old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

First reading of an ordinance to amend the Code of Thomasville, Georgia by creating a new Article Captioned "Media Production" of Chapter 18.

Tourism Manager, Bonnie Hayes reported that over the last several years, the Thomasville community has garnered much interest from the film industry, and staff has fielded many requests from production companies interested in bringing films and other forms of media production to Thomasville. Up until this point, staff has individually

navigated each request without the firm guidelines that an adopted ordinance by Council would provide. In the last twelve months, staff has received four requests for film permits, with the potential for an additional two permits that have been discussed for the near future. These permit requests encompass everything from requests to close public streets, access to city parks, restricted use of public property and more. While it is recognized that the film industry brings a unique opportunity to impact our local economy, staff must be sure they are navigating these requests with consistency and responsibility. After researching best practices for local film development, it was recommended that Thomasville would benefit from an ordinance that specifically speaks to media production, established guidelines for the film permitting process and a formal application. These items would provide consistency and guidance to staff to appropriately handle requests that are already being fielded, as the interest from the film industry is rapidly growing. An ordinance will provide a framework from which staff can be responsive to requests for media production access to our community; as well as protect Thomasville's citizens, infrastructure and facilities while also providing a means for which these opportunities can positively impact Thomasville's economic vitality. It is requested that the Thomasville City Council adopt an ordinance to amend the Code of Thomasville, Georgia, by creating a new Article XV captioned, "Media Productions" of Chapter 18, "Taxation, Revenue, and Miscellaneous Business Regulations" so as to establish a permitting system and standards governing commercial media production of all types. These standards would encompass guidelines pertaining to areas that include lighting, tenting, temporary signage, traffic management, hours of operation, street closures, applications, permitting procedures, violations and other pertinent areas.

Councilmember Warren motioned to order the ordinance to amend the Code of Thomasville, Georgia, by creating a new Article XV captioned, "Media Productions" of Chapter 18, "Taxation, Revenue, and Miscellaneous Business Regulations" so as to establish a permitting system and standards governing commercial media production of all types; as read for the first time, passed and carried over, as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

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

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, BY CREATING A NEW ARTICLE XV CAPTIONED "MEDIA PRODUCTIONS" OF CHAPTER 18 CAPTIONED "TAXATION, REVENUE AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS" SO AS TO ESTABLISH A PERMITTING SYSTEM AND STANDARDS GOVERNING MEDIA PRODUCTION OF ALL TYPES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING CODE PROVISIONS, UNCODIFIED ORDINANCES, OR PORTIONS THEREOF; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Resolution to adopt amendment of the 2018 Thomas County Service Delivery Strategy and to authorize the Mayor to sign necessary and related documents.

Grant Administrator, Pam Schalk reported the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) process gives local governments and authorities the opportunity to reach agreement on the delivery of services in an effective and cost-efficient manner to Georgia's citizens. The intent of the Act is to provide a flexible framework for local governments and authorities to agree on service delivery arrangements; to minimize any duplication or competition among local governments and authorities providing local services; and, to provide a method of resolving disputes among service providers regarding service delivery, funding equity and land use. The issues of local service delivery, local revenue collection and distribution, and intergovernmental coordination are very important to the State of Georgia. While the actual decisions the cities and counties make to settle those issues are left to the local governments, themselves, compliance with the standards that apply to the documents that provide the details of those decisions is critical. Without a Service Delivery Strategy verified by DCA to comply with applicable requirements, a local government or respective authorities are ineligible to receive any state permits or financial assistance. In addition, any local projects that are not consistent with the strategy will not receive any state permits or financial assistance. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), who administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), is now requiring that any projects that are submitted for funding to DCA must be identified in the local governments' Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) and have "Grant Funds" listed as a funding source. At this time, the City of Ochlocknee is applying for a FY 2021 DCA Grant to make improvements. Changes made to the SDS will assist Thomas County and the Cities to meet the program reporting requirements to submit DCA application. The changes identified by the Regional Commission (RC) have

been amended in reference the Utilities – Water funding and the funding methods have been updated to include the addition of “Grant Funds” for Thomas Counties and the Cities.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to adopt the resolution to approve the requested amendment and authorize the Mayor to sign the amended 2018 Service Delivery Strategy on behalf of the City of Thomasville. Councilmember Warren seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

The adopted resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the local governments of Thomas County are required to review their existing Service Delivery Strategy to determine if the Strategy continues to reflect the preferred arrangements for providing local services; and

WHEREAS, the governments of Thomas County and the City of Thomasville have found it necessary to make a minor revision to the Service Delivery Strategy as recommended by the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the revised Service Delivery Strategy promotes the delivery of local government services in the most effective and responsive manner for all residents, individuals, and property owners throughout Thomasville and Thomas County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville that the 2018 Thomas County Service Delivery Strategy is hereby revised to include an added funding source of “Grant Funds” to Form 2 – Summary of Service Delivery Arrangements for the Service titled “Utilities – Water”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to sign the revised 2018 Service Delivery Strategy on behalf of the City of Thomasville.

SO DONE, this the 10th day of May, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

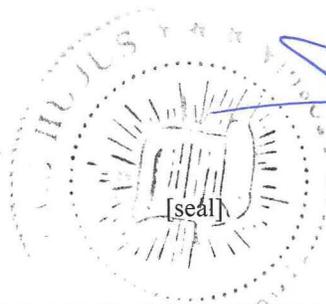
REPORTS

City Manager Carson reported having met with County Manager, Mike Stephenson recently and discussed the SDS amendment. He noted there were no issues or concerns with the amendment requested. City Manager Carson requested Councilmembers reserve the second week in August 2021 as potential dates for the annual Council retreat. City Manager Carson reported the provisions of outdoor gatherings had been relaxed in the most recent Executive Orders issued by Georgia Governor Kemp and citizens enjoyed the return of the First Friday activities on May 7th.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to be discussed, the Thomasville City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.


ATTEST: City Clerk




Mayor, Greg Hobbs