

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, June 28, 2021

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; 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 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 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 Warren motioned to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021, 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.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged no citizens had signed in to be heard at this meeting.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Mobley motioned to adopt the 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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business for consideration at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to submit an application for a FY2022 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant and to authorize the Mayor to sign necessary and related documents.

Executive Director of Public Utilities, Chris White reported the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a federally funded grant program administered by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. It authorizes funding to programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure

projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation, enhanced mobility; recreational trail projects; and safe routes to school projects. The TAP is a reimbursement program with federal money paying 80% of the authorized funds and the local match being 20% (80/20 split). FY2022 TAP applications for March 2022 funding authorizations are due 07/31/2021. In FY2020, the city received a total of \$775,000 (80/20 split applies) for preliminary engineering costs associated with the construction of a sidewalk on Old Albany road between North Boulevard and Plantation Oaks Drive. For the last year, city staff and the engineering consultant (Keck & Wood) have been doing work associated with the development and submission of a Concept Report to GDOT. This report indicates that right-of-way acquisition is necessary. For the next year, city staff and the engineering consultant will work towards completing final construction documents. Before any construction can begin, all right-of-way acquisition must be complete. Therefore, the city would like to pursue a FY2022 TAP grant requesting right-of-way funding costs that total \$216,041 in order to start right-of-way acquisition activities in the spring of 2022.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Warren seconded. It was noted that if approved, it is anticipated that construction could begin mid-year of 2025, with a potential completion in 2026. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mayor Hobbs, and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

The adopted 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 28th day of June, 2021, a motion was made and duly seconded that the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia authorized submission of a FY2022 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for funding from the Federal Highway Administration, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, find that the program is necessary and desirable in order to improve pedestrian safety and provide more facilities for non-motorized transportation on Old Albany Road (BUS 84), and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternatives Program is a reimbursement program that provides funding assistance for projects with a minimum cost of one million (\$1,000,000) dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, that:

The City Manager of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, or his/her successor, is hereby authorized to submit to the Georgia Department of Transportation a FY2022 Transportation Alternatives Program grant application and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary.

SO DONE, this 28th day of June, 2021.

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of GDOT Contract for Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act reimbursement funds associated with Thomasville Regional Airport.

Executive Director of Public Utilities, Chris White reported the consideration of a contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to the City of Thomasville's Regional Airport is required for the reimbursement of operational expenses and losses, which were incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic of (2020-2021) in the amount of \$23,000.00. These funds are made available through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) to provide relief to those impacted by the pandemic.

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 3-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mayor Hobbs, and Councilmembers Mobley and Warren.

The approved resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GDOT CONTRACT FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ACT (CRRSAA) FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OPERATIONAL EXPENSES AT THE THOMASVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, Thomasville Regional Airport will receive a contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) for 100% of reimbursement of eligible operational expenses in the amount of \$23,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council authorizes the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, and Staff to sign such documents that may be necessary to complete this project and accept a contract from the GDOT for 100% of FAA funds.

Adopted this 28th day of June, 2021.

Motion to approve the Mayor's signature on the Terms and Conditions Agreement for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason reported that in response to the pandemic, the US Treasury will be distributing Local Fiscal Recovery funds directly to each state, metropolitan city, and county. However, local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units, will receive this funding through their state government. Non-entitlement units (NEUs) are local governments with populations of less than 50,000. The City of Thomasville is considered a NEU, and will receive our funding through the State within 30 days of the State receiving the funds. We can expect to receive these funds in two payments, with 50% provided this year and the balance delivered 12 months later. At this time, the City of Thomasville is allocated to receive \$6,287,921, with the 1st payment in the amount of \$3,143,960.50. In order to receive these funds, the Mayor is required to review and sign the Terms and Conditions agreement. Upon signing, the City of Thomasville will be able to receive these funds and spend according to the eligible expenditures listed below:

1. Support public health expenditures and address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency
2. Replace lost public sector revenue
3. Provide premium pay for essential workers
4. Invest in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the Mayor's signature on the Terms and Conditions Agreement for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, 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.

Motion to approve the selection and award of consultant for the Thomasville Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

City Planner, Kenny Thompson reported The goal of the **Parks and Recreation Master Plan** is to establish a shared, clearly defined vision for the City's parks and recreation system that is driven by community input. The process will assess what we have, determine what the community wants and how to meet their needs, and then based on those findings, inform a comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The resulting master plan will provide guidance for both short- and long-range planning related to parks and recreation in the community and establish a baseline set

of standards for park facilities and recreational programming system-wide. Thompson further reported the process will include a comprehensive inventory analysis to assess the conditions and functionality of the City's existing parks and recreation facilities, related plans and policies, and how they compare to similar systems. To determine the current usage of the park system as well as the needs, desires, and interests of the community, a consultant-led public engagement strategy will be implemented and provide opportunities for the community to participate in the planning process. A needs assessment will examine the capacity of the existing parks and recreation facilities and programming to meet the identified needs of the community. Based on these findings, the Consultant will develop prioritized recommendations that consider programming requirements, capital/operational costs, and funding sources. The final Parks & Recreation Master Plan will include strategies, priorities, budget support, and funding mechanisms to guide future investments and programming system-wide. It was noted that a seven-member RFP Selection Committee comprised of City staff and two City Councilmembers participated in the evaluation process, which included independent review and ranking of the proposals, a survey of candidates' references, interviews with the top three firms, and an assessment of the value offered in their respective proposals. The City received four proposals in response to the RFP and the Selection Committee identified the top three firms as follows: Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. (BCI), Kimley-Horn, and Tunnell, Spangler, & Walsh (TSW). Thompson noted that as has been discussed previously, the low bidder is not always the most qualified. This is especially true when evaluating professional services. Based on their qualifications and overall value, Brandstetter Carroll demonstrated the best understanding of the RFP scope of work and ability to meet our community's needs and offered the most relevant experience and expertise in the field of parks and recreation planning. While at face value the total bid amount proposed by Brandstetter Carroll is higher than the other candidates, they actually had the lowest hourly rate, providing a project team with nationally renowned field experts while dedicating approximately 175% more time and effort than the other firms. The Brandstetter Carroll proposal ultimately offered a more robust project approach, more services, and more industry credibility than the competing firms. Therefore, the RFP Selection Committee unanimously recommended the selection of Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. based on their qualifications and value.

Bidder	Ranking	Bid Amount	Total Hours
Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.	1	\$ 72,670	627
Kimley-Horn	2	\$ 49,745	357
Tunnell, Spangler, & Walsh	3	\$ 46,800	386

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the selection and award of a consultant for the Thomasville Parks and Recreation Master Plan to Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., 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.

Motion to approve Alcohol License Applications.

Event Facilities, Business & Tax Licensing Administrator, Melissa Creel reported three separate establishments have recently submitted Alcohol License Applications.

1. Applicant/owner: Allison Cohenour, AJ Moon Spin, located at 113 North Crawford Street, Thomasville, Georgia, has completed all paperwork relating to the application for Liquor Pouring Privilege License at Restaurant for the establishment. Administrator Creel further reported the applicant had completed the proper procedures and no issues or concerns were discovered. It was noted that the license issued by the City are conditioned upon the applicant obtaining a like permit from the Georgia Department of Revenue, Alcohol, and Tobacco Tax unit.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the Liquor Pouring Privilege License for AJ Moonspin, 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.

2. Applicant/owner: Cerrika Choice, Three Stands Braiding and More, LLC, located at 464 West Jackson Street, Thomasville, Georgia, has completed all paperwork relating to the application for License to Engage in the Business of Selling Retail Wine for Consumption for the establishment. Administrator

Creel further reported the applicant had completed the proper procedures and no issues or concerns were discovered. It was noted that the license issued by the City are conditioned upon the applicant obtaining a like permit from the Georgia Department of Revenue, Alcohol, and Tobacco Tax unit.

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the Alcohol License for Retail Wine Consumption for Three Strands Braiding and More, LLC, 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.

3. Applicant/manager: Spencer Thomas, Southwest Georgia Oil, DBS. SunStop #889, located at 16375 US Highway 19 North, Thomasville, Georgia, has completed all paperwork relating to the application for License to Engage in the Selling of Packaged Beer and Wine for the establishment. Administrator Creel further reported the applicant had completed the proper procedures and no issues or concerns were discovered. It was noted that the license issued by the City are conditioned upon the applicant obtaining a like permit from the Georgia Department of Revenue, Alcohol, and Tobacco Tax unit.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the Alcohol License for Package Beer and Wine for SunStop #889, 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.

Following the approval of the Alcohol Beverage License for the three establishments, Mayor Hobbs read the following statement to the two owners and manager, who were present:

“As part of your application processes, you each signed an affidavit stating that you understand the sale of alcoholic beverages to an underage person is an illegal act, punishable by law, in the State of Georgia; and, You all understand the code requirements as they relate to the required training program and prohibition of sales of alcoholic beverages to an underage person; and, You all received a copy of the current Thomasville Municipal Code Chapter 3, titled “Alcoholic Beverages”.

Bids and award for the purchase of Edgewood and Palmetto Drive Stormwater Drainage Improvements.

Assistant City Engineer, Todd Powell reported as per a hydraulics study of the Palmetto Drive area, it was determined that 18 acres is draining to the intersection of Palmetto and Edgewood Drive. It floods the intersection and then flows through 201 Edgewood Drive. Proposals were opened on June 3, 2021 for the above project, which includes furnishing all labor and equipment to perform all work required to accomplish the following: Install 302 LF of 30” HDPE piping, which will be furnished by the City’s Public Works Department. A catch basin will need to be constructed to capture the storm water flowing into Myrtle Drive, Glenwood Drive, and Palmetto Drive. The storm water will then be conveyed through a new 30” HDPE through a storm water drainage easement acquired at 201 Edgewood Drive. A section of the sidewalk damage during the tree removal and the portion damaged by the installation of the new piping will also need to be repaired. All work is to be completed within thirty (30) consecutive calendar days following receipt of the notice to proceed. It was noted that the improvements, if approved, would be funded with 2018 SPLOST funds. A summary of bids follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Defnall & Nick Excavation	\$36,999.50
Greens Backhoe	\$39,648.10
Scoggins Dozier	\$46,317.06

Councilmember Mobley motioned to award the bid for the purchase of Edgewood and Palmetto Drive Stormwater Drainage Improvements to Defnall & Nick Excavation in the amount of \$36,999.50, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

REPORTS

City Manager Carson noted the City Council Workshop for July 7, 2021 and the City Council Meeting for July 12, 2021 had been cancelled due to Councilmembers' attendance at the MEAG Power annual meeting.

City Manager Carson also reported the issuance of recently relaxed COVID-19 pandemic advisories provided for Council Chambers to be reset to reflect three-feet of social distancing between persons. Consensus of Councilmembers was in favor of the Chamber's arrangements to be in place prior to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Councilmember Warren encouraged citizens to continue to adhere to social distancing advisories to ensure their safety.

Councilmember Mobley encouraged citizens to have a safe Fourth of July holiday and reminded citizens the City of Thomasville's fireworks celebration display would be held on July 3rd. City Manager Carson noted due to pandemic advisories, the usual festivities would not be held prior to the fireworks display. However, parking would be available in designated areas for the community to enjoy the fireworks display in a safe and socially distanced manner.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Mayor, Greg Hobbs


ATTEST: City Clerk

