

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, October 25, 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 and Councilmembers Jay Flowers, Todd Mobley and Wanda Warren. Also present were the City Manager, J. Alan Carson; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; and, other city 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 the 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 Hobbs called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Opening Flag Ceremony, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation provided by the following Webelo Cub Scouts of Pack 316, sponsored by First United Methodist Church under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Scott Delius:

Dominic Carugati, Conner Delius, Everett Fraush, Grant Greens, Asher Jackson and Sam Jones.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the October 11, 2021 City Council Meeting minutes 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.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the October 18, 2021 City Council Called Meeting minutes 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.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Hobbs presented a Proclamation honoring Retired Educators. In declaration with the Governor of the State of Georgia, Mayor Hobbs proclaimed November 7, 2021 as Retired Educators Day. The Proclamation called upon the citizens of Thomasville to observe that day in an appropriate manner honoring retired educators throughout Thomasville and the State of Georgia for their invaluable contributions that retired educators have made and continue to make for the betterment of human lives and for society.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Hobbs acknowledged the following Citizens to be Heard, as listed on the sign in sheet, and reminded those present to speak of the three minute rule in which to address Council:

1. Lucinda Brown applauded Councilmembers and City of Thomasville for applying and receiving infrastructure grants for the Dewey City Area (CDBG FY2021).

2. John Block voiced concerns regarding the use of property located at 115 Cherry Street. He stated that although he has been told the property is in compliance with its zoning regulations, it is currently being used in a manner in which is a violation of its zoning requirement. Mr. Block reported the neighbors adjacent to the property are not in favor of the proposed ministerial use of the property as it places them in an unsafe atmosphere and he requested Council look into this matter. Mayor Hobbs responded Council was aware of the issue and have been made aware that the current use of the property is within compliance; however, if the property owner changes the property's application, it would be subject to proper zoning procedures.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Flowers motioned to adopt the agenda as presented and with no exceptions. 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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business for Councilmembers to consider at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to authorize the Mayor as the certifying official for the Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant application and to sign all necessary and related documents.

Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason, reported Governor Kemp had announced a Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. This program was established in recognition of the sacrifice and dedication public safety officers and first responders have shown in serving Georgians and their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant will provide a \$1,000 pay supplement for all eligible sworn law enforcement officials and first responders in Georgia serving during August of 2021. On behalf of the public safety employees within this organization, the City will apply for the grant. The grant funds will be paid directly to the City, and the City will disburse payments to individuals through the payroll process. To receive the funds, local government employers must sign a terms and conditions agreement with the state, and then, subsequently, submit a payment request with documentation showing payroll information for all eligible employees. Payment requests must be submitted through the Office of Planning and Budget's (OPB) Georgia Grants portal. Payroll information must show employee name, position title, active pay status, full time status, certification title and number, and reflect that the individual was an employee during the period between August 1 and August 31 of 2021. There are no matching fund requirements for this grant. CFO Cason requested Council to consider a resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign all necessary documents related to the 2021 Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant.

Councilmember Mobley motioned to approve the resolution 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.

The approved resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) is facilitating the distribution of the Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to apply on behalf of the City's law enforcement officers and first responders; and,

WHEREAS, the Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant provides supplemental funds for employees who actively served full-time as a public safety officer or first responder during the month of August, 2021 in a position which requires active certification; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to submit Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant application so as to obtain the supplemental funds; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the Mayor to sign all necessary and related documents, as shall be necessary in relation to the Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submittal of an application for the Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant on, or before, the application's deadline of December 31, 2021 to obtain supplemental funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the Mayor of the City of Thomasville, or his/her successor, as the signatory on all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary in relation to the Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement Grant application.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 25th day of October 2021.

REPORTS

City Manager Carson reported Councilmembers had requested attendance records regarding appointees to the various Citizen Boards and Authorities. The attendance records were distributed to councilmembers.

Councilmember Warren indicated she would like to hear updates provided at the next available Council Workshop regarding proposed food vendor and animal control ordinances. She encouraged Citizens to vote in the upcoming Municipal General election. Councilmember Warren reported the City Manager Carson had provided to Councilmembers an extensive listing of accomplishments of the City of Thomasville for the past three years and read through several also took a few moments to highlight a few of the accomplishments achieved. The listing included, but was not limited to, projects such as The Bottom (West Jackson Street), Weston Park Improvements, Award of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Dewey City community, South Pinetree Boulevard Improvements, numerous infrastructure improvements and the ongoing financial stability of the City of Thomasville.

Councilmember Flowers commended Lieutenant Colonel Scott Delius and the Cub Scouts for a job well done during the Flag Ceremony, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation of this meeting and their community involvement.

Councilmember Mobley applauded all retired educators for their service to the community.

Mayor Hobbs reported there was no further business to be considered by Council and an Executive Session for the purpose of

Councilmember Warren motioned to close the public meeting to enable Council to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)). 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, members of the press and others who were not required to remain in attendance for the Executive Session exited the meeting room.

Following the duly closed and opened Executive Session, the public meeting was resumed with Mayor 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 city staff; citizens and members of the press.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Felicia Brannen

ATTEST: City Clerk

Greg Hobbs
Mayor, Greg Hobbs

