

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, January 10, 2022

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 Councilmember Elects Terry Scott and Scott Chastain; City Manager, J. Alan Carson; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; Assistant City Manager, Sheryl Sealy; Assistant City Manager, Chris White; 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

Councilmember Flowers gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem David Hufstetler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler motioned to approve the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of December 13, 2021, 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.

PRESENTATIONS

Councilmember Warren recognized Mayor Pro Tem David Hufstetler and Mayor Greg Hobbs with the reading of separate proclamations honoring both, Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor, for their years of service on the Council of the City of Thomasville. Assistant City Managers Sealy and White presented both Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler and Mayor Hobbs with years of service gifts from the City of Thomasville Utilities Department.

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 commended Councilmember Flowers for bringing the concerns of constituents to the Council during the Council Workshop regarding the Animal Control ordinance. She thanked Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for their years of service as Councilmembers. Brown congratulated and welcomed the Councilmember elects on their future service as Councilmembers.
2. Keith Thomas also thanked Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for their years of service as Councilmembers and encouraged all Councilmembers to work together for the greater good of the Thomasville community. He also encouraged Councilmembers to consider the installation of a community pool for the area of the Southside neighborhoods.

3. Candee Henderson addressed Council and encouraged them to consider a resolution that would transition Thomasville to 100% renewable energy by 2035. She also encouraged everyone to stop burning fossil fuels in an effort to reach the renewable energy goal.

Mayor Hobbs and Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler thanked citizens and Councilmembers for allowing them to serve as Councilmembers and welcomed Councilmember Elects Terry Scott and Scott Chastain to the Council of the City of Thomasville. Mayor Hobbs and Mayor Pro Tem Hufstetler stepped down from the Dias and exited the room. City Attorney, Tim Sanders presided over the meeting during the Administration of Oaths of Office and Election of Officers.

OATHS OF OFFICE

City Attorney Tim Sanders reported as a result of the Municipal General Election held in November 2021, Councilmember Mobley was re-elected to serve as the At Large representative; Councilmember Elect Terry Scott was elected to serve as the District 1, Post 2 representative; and Councilmember Elect Scott Chastain was elected to serve as the District 2, Post 2 representative on the Council of the City of Thomasville. City Attorney Tim Sanders then administered the Oath of Office required by Section 2.20 of the Charter of the City of Thomasville to newly elected Councilmembers Mobley, Scott and Chastain. Following the administration of the Oaths of Office, Councilmembers Mobley, Scott and Chastain took their seats on the Dias.

City Attorney Sanders also administered the Oath required by O.C.G.A. 45-3-1 to all five Councilmembers collectively.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The City Attorney conducted by secret ballot an election for Mayor. The votes for Mayor were recorded as follows: Councilmember Flowers received five votes from Councilmembers. Having received the majority vote, Councilmember Flowers was elected as Mayor of the City Council.

The City Attorney then conducted by secret ballot an election for Mayor Pro Tem. The votes for Mayor Pro Tem were recorded as follows: Councilmember Mobley received five votes from Councilmembers. Having received the majority vote, Councilmember Mobley was elected as Mayor Pro Tem of the City Council.

SEATING OF COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Flowers, Mayor Pro Tem Mobley, and Councilmembers Warren, Scott, and Chastain then took their seats on the Dias in order from left to right as follows: Councilmember Warren; Mayor Pro Tem Mobley; Mayor Flowers; Councilmember Scott; and, Councilmember Chastain.

Mayor Flowers presided over the remainder of the meeting.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Warren motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following AYE votes recorded: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

OLD BUSINESS

Second reading of an ordinance to approve text amendments to Chapter 4, captioned “Animals” of the Thomasville Code of Ordinances.

City Attorney, Tim Sanders reviewed the following revisions made in connection with the first reading of the ordinance:

1. Section 4-27(b), Restraint Requirement has been finalized to include the last sentence: “Provided however,, this provision shall not apply to dogs while training or participating in otherwise lawful activities, such as hunting, obedience trials, field trails, dog shows, tracking or law enforcement work.”

2. Section 4-34(a)(1) was revised to provide an exception concerning the dog park to read: “Provided however and notwithstanding any provision in this Chapter to the contrary, dogs shall be allowed to be off of a leash inside the fenced areas of the City of Thomasville Dog Park, located at 415 South Pinetree Boulevard.”.

City Attorney Sanders noted that otherwise, the ordinance presented for the second reading is unchanged from the ordinance presented and passed on first reading.

Councilmember Warren motioned to table this item for further discussion and to provide new councilmembers time to adequately review the proposed ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley seconded. Brief discussion ensued regarding councilmembers’ consensus of additional input needed prior to final passage of the ordinance. The motion remained unchanged. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following AYE votes recorded: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to submit a National Parks Service Underrepresented Community Grant Program Application.

Grants Administrator, Pam Schalk reported the National Parks Service Underrepresented Community Grant Program (URC) application will be used to update the contextual survey of the community’s structures and residences over 40 years old. The focus area for this grant will be the Westside Neighborhoods.

- The survey is consistent with the BluePrint 2028 Comprehensive Plan (Policy 7.14.3).
- All structures and homes over 40 years old will be surveyed to extend the length of time that the survey is viable.
- The proposal includes 958 structures build before 1982.
- This is one of two grant applications for historic surveys; an application is in progress for the state Historic Preservation Fund FY2022 grant application cycle; if awarded, the Stevens Street National Historic District property survey will be updated. The last survey was in 2001.
- Updates historic surveys are required to keep our Certified Local Government status with DCA; the survey will elevate the City to Tier 2 status which will allow us to apply for additional grants.
- No match is required for this application, but funding from DCA’s Historic Preservation Fund may be used as match which will increase the competitiveness of our application.
- Maximum award amount of \$50,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following AYE votes recorded: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

The adopted resolution follows.

Resolution

A RESOLUTION by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, to authorize submission of a National Parks Service Underrepresented Community Grant Program application.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, find that the program is necessary and desirable in order to identify and protect the historic community assets of the Westside Neighborhoods in the City of Thomasville, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desire to update the contextual survey of the City’s structures and residences over 40 years old; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desire that an Underrepresented Community Grant Program application be submitted to the National Parks Service; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submittal of an application for the National Parks Service Underrepresented Community Grant Program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Thomasville, GA 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 National Parks Service Underrepresented Community Grant Program a grant application.

READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia on a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Todd Mobley, seconded by Councilmember Scott Chastain, and adopted on this 10th day of January 2022.

Resolution to submit a Department of Community Affairs Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application.

Grants Administrator, Pam Schalk reported the Department of Community Affairs Historic Preservation Fund grant application will be used to update the contextual survey of the community's structures and residences over 40 years old. The focus area for this grant will be the Stevens Street National Historic Register District.

- The survey is consistent with the BluePrint 2028 Comprehensive Plan (Policy 7.14.3).
- All structures and homes over 40 years old will be surveyed to extend the length of time that the survey is viable.
- The proposal includes 321 structures build before 1982.
- This is one of two grant applications for historic surveys; an application is in progress for the National Parks Service Underrepresented Community grant program; if awarded, the Stevens Street National Historic District survey will be used as match for the NPS URC.
- Updated historic surveys are required to keep our Certified Local Government status with DCA; the survey will elevate the City to Tier 2 status which will allow us to apply for additional grants.
- Maximum award amount of \$25,000 with a 40% match required; \$10,000.

Councilmember Scott motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following AYE votes recorded: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

The adopted resolution follows.

Resolution

A RESOLUTION by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, to authorize submission of a Department of Community Affairs FY2022 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, find that the program is necessary and desirable in order to identify and protect the historic community assets of the Stevens Street National Historic Register District in the City of Thomasville, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desire to update the contextual survey of the City's structures and residences over 40 years old; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desire that a Historic Preservation Fund grant application be submitted to the Department of Community Services; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to commit funding of funds in the FY2022 Budget to provide for the provision of the matching funds as a requirement of the Historic Preservation Fund; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submittal of an application for the Department of Community Affairs FY2022 Historic Preservation Fund Grant and the obligation of necessary funds; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Thomasville, GA 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 Department of Community Affairs FY2022 Historic Preservation Fund a grant application.

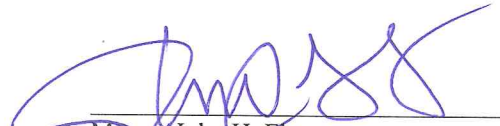
READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Thomasville, Georgia on a motion made by Councilmember Terry Scott, seconded by Councilmember Scott Chastain, and adopted on this 10th day of January 2022.

REPORTS

City Manager Carson welcomed new Councilmembers and congratulated the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem on their respective elections. Mayor Flowers and Mayor Pro Tem Mobley thanked Councilmembers for their votes to lead Council and both noted they were looking forward to their new positions. Councilmembers Scott and Chastain noted they were also looking forward to serving their community as Councilmembers. Councilmember Warren congratulated the newly elected councilmembers and encouraged each member of City Council to work together for the greater good of the Community in which they serve.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the Thomasville City Council Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.



Mayor, John H. Flowers



ATTEST: City Clerk

