

## City of Thomasville Council Meeting, February 28, 2022

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in regular session with Mayor Jay Flowers presiding and the following Councilmembers present: Mayor Pro Tem Todd Mobley and Councilmembers Wanda Warren, Terry Scott and Scott Chastain. Also present were the City Manager, J. Alan Carson; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; Assistant City Managers Sheryl Sealy and Chris White; other city staff; citizens and members of the media. 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](http://www.thomasville.org).

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jay Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### **INVOCATION**

Councilmember Terry Scott gave the invocation.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Todd Mobley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the February 14, 2022 City Council Meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Warren seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Flowers acknowledged the following citizens to be heard as listed on the Citizens to be Heard sign-in sheet:

1. Ian Quinton, owner of International Design and Display Group, LLC, 125 North Stevens Street, Thomasville, Georgia, addressed Councilmembers with concerns regarding the Council Workshop discussion in relation to his appeal of a Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) ruling of November 16, 2021 (Bracey Lumber Project, 300 West Jefferson Street). Quinton inquired as to why Attorney Bill Blackburn was allowed to defend HPC and its decision in the upcoming appeal hearing. He noted Councilmembers should not seek City Staff's input regarding education of HPC procedures and stated Thomasville Landmarks would be a better resource for education regarding the HPC's decision. Quinton requested a copy of the memo and hearing preparation material provided to Councilmembers. Quinton encouraged all Councilmembers to listen to the audio tape of the November 16, 2022 HPC meeting prior to the upcoming appeal hearing.
2. Candee Henderson addressed Councilmembers regarding the adoption of a resolution in support of a plan to move Thomasville and Thomas County to 100% renewable energy by 2035. She acknowledged she was not a city resident, however renewable energy was her mission. She requested Councilmembers to consider converting fleet vehicles to all electric between now and 2035. Henderson also requested electric charging stations be installed in current gas and diesel storage areas with solar-panel-covered roofs. In conclusion, she encouraged everyone to think outside the fossil fuel box.
3. Tommy Patel addressed Councilmembers with concerns regarding a recent burglary of airplane radios at the Municipal Airport. He noted it appeared there were no cameras in place in the areas where the burglary took place and inquired how the city planned to resolve the issue. City Manager Carson reported there were

cameras at the airport; however, staff has met and plans are being made install more to have complete visual coverage and resolve this concern.

### **ADOPT AGENDA**

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

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Second reading of an ordinance to close an un-named alley of North Love Street between East Jefferson Street and East Jackson Street.**

Right-of-Way Superintendent, Curtis Crocker reported there had been no changes to the ordinance since its passage on first reading. It was noted there were no issues or concerns from the community regarding the closure of this alley. The property owners have requested to close existing Love Street alley between Jefferson Street and East Jackson Street. The alley does not run all the way through the block (dead end alley). The alley is not being used to access other properties. The only utility within the alley is a gas service line to 121 Love Street. All adjacent property owners have signed petition to close the Love Street alley.

Councilmember Chastain motioned to order the ordinance to close an un-named alley off of North Love Street between East Jefferson and East Jackson Street as read for the second time, passed and adopted. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

The title of the ordinance read for the second time, passed and adopted follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE THAT UNNAMED ALLEY IN THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE EXTENDING SOUTHWEST FROM THE WESTERN MARGIN OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF NORTH LOVE STREET LYING BETWEEN AND RUNNING PARALLEL WITH THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF EAST JEFFERSON STREET AND EAST JACKSON STREET; TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville has been petitioned unanimously by the adjoining landowners to close that unnamed alley extending southwest from the western margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street lying between and running parallel with the rights-of-way of East Jefferson Street and East Jackson Street more completely described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Thomasville, being an un-named alley extending southwest from North Love Street and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the point of intersection of the southeast margin of the right-of-way of East Jefferson Street with the southwest margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street and run thence south 45 degrees 32 minutes 06 seconds east along the southwest margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street a distance of 187.90 feet to a point; continue thence south 45 degrees 32 minutes 06 seconds east along the southwest margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street a distance of 64.54 feet to a point being the southeast corner of the property now or formerly owned by Lori Bemby Investments, LLC (121 North Love Street) and the Point of Beginning; From said Point of Beginning run thence south 50 degrees 59 minutes 47 seconds west along the south boundary of the property now or formerly owned by Lori Bemby Investments, LLC (121 North Love Street) a distance of 188.52 feet, more or less, to a point on the northeast boundary of the property now or formerly owned by Mary Stevens (331 S. Jackson Street); run thence southeasterly along the northeast boundary of the property now or formerly owned by Mary Stevens (331 S. Jackson Street) parallel to the southwesterly margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street a distance of

approximately 15 feet to a point at the northwest corner of the property now or formerly owned by Jackson Street Investments, LLC (337 E. Jackson Street); run thence north 50 degrees 59 minutes 47 seconds east a distance of 188.52 feet to a point on the southeast margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street; run thence north 45 degrees 32 minutes 06 seconds west along the southeast margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street a distance of 15.01 feet to the Point of Beginning.

The above-described property is also described as all of that certain unnamed alley being bounded on the east by the southwest margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street; on the north by the property now or formerly owned by Lori Bemby Investments, LLC (121 North Love Street); on the west by the property now or formerly owned by Mary Stevens (331 S. Jackson Street); and on the south by the property now or formerly owned by Jackson Street Investments, LLC (337 E. Jackson Street) and the property now or formerly owned by Lori Bemby Investments, LLC (115 North Love Street) (121 North Love Street).

A map depicting the above described alley is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville is vested with the authority to close said alley, pursuant to OCGA § 36-34-3 and pursuant to Georgia Laws 1990 (Act No. 1118), Page 5051 et seq., which is a part of the Charter of the City of Thomasville, and has been codified as subsection 33 of Section 1.12 of Article 1 of the Charter of the City; and

WHEREAS, ten (10) days advance notice by publication was given to all parties in interest of a public hearing to be held on February 14, 2022, in connection with the proposed alley closing; and

WHEREAS, the property owners fronting on this alley in the subject area were mailed a copy of the Notice published in the paper by certified mail return receipt requested more than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled hearing date; and

WHEREAS, no one made any appearance in connection with the notice at the City Council meeting held on the February 14, 2022, and there being no objections to said request.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thomasville, and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same, that the unnamed alley extending southwest from the western margin of the right-of-way of North Love Street lying between and running parallel with the rights-of-way of East Jefferson Street and East Jackson Street, as more completely described hereinbefore, be closed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the City of Thomasville reserves an easement for all existing utilities (if any) lying in said alley and otherwise all title and interest to said alley shall revert to the adjacent property owners, each to the center line.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its final adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This ordinance was introduced and read at the lawful meeting of the City Council for the City of Thomasville held on February 14, 2022, and read a second time, passed and adopted in like meeting held on February 28, 2022.

**Second reading of an ordinance to amend Section 19-47 of Chapter 19, captioned “Traffic”, of the Municipal Code.**

It was noted that Major Harris was not in attendance to present this item to Council. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to table this item until a subsequent meeting at which Major Patrol Operations, Shane Harris would be in attendance to present. Councilmember Scott seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion to approve Alcohol One Day Event Permit for Consumption of Beer and Wine for “Oakfest 2022” event held at The Ritz Amphitheater.**

Business & Tax Licensing Administrator, Melissa Creel reported Thomas County Treehouse Advocacy Center has submitted a completed City of Thomasville Application for a One-Day Permit for Sale of Alcoholic Beverage by Bona Fide Charitable & Non-Profit Civic Organization (Consumption Only for Beer and Wine) for the annual fundraising event “Oakfest 2022” to be held at The Ritz Amphitheater in downtown Thomasville on March 19, 2022. City Council approval of the One-Day Alcohol permit is required as the event will be held on property owned by the City. The Thomasville Police Department found no reason not to issue the One-Day Alcohol permit.

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the Alcohol One Day Event Permit as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

**REPORTS**

City Manager Carson welcomed Christy Owens as the new Public Information Officer, having transferred from the Main Street department. He noted former Public Information Officer, Ricky Zambrano, has transferred to the Human Resources Department and will be assisting with community relations and recruiting.

Councilmember Warren acknowledged February 28<sup>th</sup> as the last day of commemoration of Black History Month and thanked staff for coordinating numerous commemorative events. She noted it is important to recognize those Black Americans and their contribution to history.

Councilmembers collectively encouraged the community to keep the Country of Ukraine and everyone involved in the midst of the crisis in their thoughts and prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no other business to discuss, the Thomasville City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



ATTEST: City Clerk



Mayor, John H. Flowers

