

## City of Thomasville Council Meeting, March 14, 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, 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**

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the February 28, 2022 City Council Meeting minutes 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.

### **PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**

Mayor Flowers reported that in 2015, the American Public Gas Association began recognizing March 18<sup>th</sup> as Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day. The date was chosen to remember the New London, Texas school explosion that occurred on March 18, 1937, leading to the widespread odorization of natural gas and in increased emphasis on safety. Mayor Flowers acknowledged the attention and dedication of the community's utility workers to ensure safety remained the top priority for natural gas distribution was unprecedented and formally proclaimed March 18, 2022 as Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day in Thomasville and presented the Proclamation to Director of Utility Operations, Chris Hayes. Mayor Flowers read proclamation.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Flowers acknowledged the following citizen to be heard assisted on the Citizens to be Heard sign-in sheet:

1. Catherine Smith, 1120 Joiner Road, Thomas County, stated she was running for the office of Superior Court Judge for the Southern Judicial Circuit. She noted that she is currently the senior assistant district attorney for the Southern Judicial Circuit and briefly reviewed her career history. Ms. Smith reported she was born and raised in Thomas County and had practiced civil law for ten years, has courtroom experience and currently specializes in crimes against women and children. She explained that her extensive legal experience and deep involvement in these communities provides her with a unique background and perspective to serve as the next Superior Court Judge. Ms. Smith noted she would remain after the meeting if citizens had any questions for her.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Councilmember Chastain motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. 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.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

Major Patrol Operations, Shane Harris reported there had been no amendments to the ordinance since its passage on first reading. Major Harris explained the amending ordinance will designate a section of West Jackson Street (from South Pinetree Boulevard to Industrial Boulevard) as a thru truck route. A proposed map was created to consolidate the existing signs into two types such as one designating the thru truck routes and another designating only local delivery. These modifications will enhance the Police Officer's abilities to determine if the truck is on the truck route, or if the truck is making a local delivery. Also, it will assist in preventing thru truck passage into the downtown area. Consolidated signage will be installed by the Public Works Department.

Councilmember Scott motioned to order the second reading of the ordinance to amend Section 19-47 of Chapter 9, of the Municipal Code of ordinances as read for the second time, passed and adopted, 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.

The ordinance ordered read for second time, passed and adopted follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE BY ADDING A NEW SUBPARAGRAPH (7) TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF SECTION 19-47, CAPTIONED "ESTABLISHMENT AND DEMARCATION OF TRUCK ROUTES", IN CHAPTER 19, CAPTIONED "TRAFFIC", IN ARTICLE II, CAPTIONED "OPERATION OF VEHICLES" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN EXPANDED TRUCK ROUTE; TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THE OPERATION OF VEHICLES WITHIN THE TRUCK ROUTE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEARWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.

**SECTION I**

BE IT ORDAINED that Section 19-47, captioned "Establishment and demarcation of truck routes." in Chapter 19, captioned "Traffic" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Thomasville, is hereby amended by adding a new subparagraph (7) to paragraph (a); the amended section 19-47 shall read as follows:

"Section 19-47 Establishment and demarcation of truck routes.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any vehicle whose body weight and load weight exceeds five (5) tons to travel over or upon any street or way of the city except those designated by the Council of the City of Thomasville as a committed route for such vehicles. Those streets designated as permitted routes for such vehicles are as follows:

- (1) Cassidy road from North Boulevard to North Pine Tree Boulevard.
- (2) Campbell Street from U.S. 319 Truck Route to North Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.
- (3) North Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive from Campbell Street to West Clay Street.
- (4) Industrial Boulevard from U.S. 319 Business to Campbell Street.



- (5) Plantation Oak Drive from Old Albany Road to U.S. 319 Truck Route.
- (6) Cairo Road from U.S. 319 Truck Route to Old Albany Road.
- (7) West Jackson Street from U.S. 319 Truck Route to Industrial Boulevard.

(b) Any vehicle may be operated over a prohibited street of the city when necessary to reach a destination point within the city for the conduct of business, provided such vehicle uses a street upon which vehicular travel is permitted to the intersection nearest such destination.

(c) Vehicles may be operated over a prohibited street of the city when necessary to leave a point of origin for the conduct of business, provided it leaves such prohibited street at the nearest intersection of a truck route to such point of origin.

(d) Any vehicle may be operated over a prohibited street if owned or operated by the city, a public utility or any contractor or materialman, while engaged in the repair, maintenance or construction of streets, street improvements, or street utilities within the city.

(e) Any person violating this section shall be punished as provided for according to section 1-6.”

## SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the provisions of this ordinance shall be made a part of the official codified ordinances of the City of Thomasville.

## SECTION III

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that should any word, phrase, sentence or paragraph of this ordinance be declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, sentences or paragraphs of this ordinance, but the offending provision shall be severed from the remainder to the extent allowable by law, it being the express intent and purpose hereof that all other provisions and parts of this ordinance not so declared invalid or void shall remain in full force and effect.

## SECTION IV

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed for purposes of this ordinance only.

## SECTION V

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall be effective as of the date of its second reading and final passage.

## SECTION VI

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Resolution to submit a second-level application for funding from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources FY 2021-2022 Recreational Trails Program.**

Manager-Parks & Recreation, Golf, Mike Owens reported the Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a Federal-aid assistance program that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) administers as a reimbursement grant program. These funds are intended to fund recreational trail-related projects

and are on a two-year application cycle. The City has been selected to move forward with the second-level application which is due 03/31/2022. Funding will be awarded in Fall 2022. Projects must be completed within a two-year period. A resolution is required with the submission for the RTP grant second-level application stating the City is committed to construction of a portion of Phase 4 of the Community Trail inner loop; we understand that we will finance 100% of the project and be reimbursed for up to 50% of the project cost with a maximum reimbursement of \$110,500. Trail construction will include a portion of the Macintyre Park segment of the Thomasville Community Trail to be built along Washington Street and also for the portion of the internal trail system within MacIntyre Park. Due to the unpredictability of construction prices at this time, it is requested that up to \$200,000 from SPLOST be allocated to this project. Current estimates for construction are \$110,500 and staff will follow the procurement process outlined in the Thomasville Purchasing Policies and Procedures to procure qualified construction services to complete this project. Manager Owens requested that Council consider the approval of a maximum of \$200,000 from SPLOST in the FY2022-2023 budget and take appropriate action and authorize the Mayor to sign all necessary documents related to the FY 2021-2022 RTP Grant Application.

Councilmember Scott motioned to adopt the resolution to submit a second-level application for funding from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources FY 2021-2022 Recreational Trails Program 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.

The adopted resolution follows.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal program fund recreational trail-related projects that is distributed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to complete the Thomasville Community Trail inner loop for the greater good of the community; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to submit a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant second-level application so as to obtain funding assistance for improvements to Phase 4 of the Thomasville Community Trail: and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to commit funding of SPLOST funds in the FY2023 Budget to provide for the provision of the matching funds as a requirement of the RTP Grant second-level application; 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 RTP Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submittal of a pre-application for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant on, or before, the second-level application's deadline of March 31, 2022 to obtain assistance for Thomasville Community Trail Phase 4; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the provision of commitment of SPLOST funds in the FY2023 Budget so as to provide the matching funds as a required in the RTP Grant application; 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 RTP second-level application and grant agreement.



PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 14<sup>TH</sup> day of March 2022.

**Adoption of City of Thomasville's Financial Policy**

City Manager Carson requested Council to consider tabling this item to provide more time for Councilmembers to review the documents presented to them.

Councilmember Warren motioned to table the discussion and vote regarding this item 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

**Adoption of City of Thomasville's Investment Policy.**

City Manager Carson requested Council also consider tabling this item to provide more time for Councilmembers to review the documents presented to them.

Councilmember Scott motioned to table the discussion and vote regarding this item 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

**Motion to approve Utility Fee Schedule for Water, Gas and Sewer.**

Natural Gas Superintendent, Chuck Whitaker reported a number of fees are charged by the Natural Gas, Water and Wastewater Departments to provide a multitude of services, including various sized utility service taps. These fees are generally charged to both residential, commercial and industrial customers for the purpose of delivering natural gas, water and wastewater service. The fees were last updated in 2013. In order to accurately adjust fees assessed by the City of Thomasville to cover the cost of providing our services, staff has reviewed the existing fees as well as the various costs that are involved in the delivery of the service to customers. In addition, staff has also conducted a survey of other municipalities as additional information to consider in the final recommended fee schedule that is presented to City Council for approval. In an effort to update the existing fee schedule for the Natural Gas, Water and Wastewater Departments, staff has reviewed all current fees, associated costs (such as labor and materials) to deliver services and final survey comparisons. After analyzing all data, an updated fee schedule be offered as a final recommendation to City Council for approval. Councilmember Warren inquired if the updated fee schedule adequately covers the city's costs for delivery. City Manager Carson reported that to cover all costs for delivery, incremental adjustments will have to be made in a manner that will help customers budget for the adjustment also. City Manager Carson further reported that Council will review all fees for the City of Thomasville and ultimately the fees will be adopted each year with the annual budget.

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the recommended Utility Fee Schedule for Water, Gas and Sewer, 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

The approved "Exhibit A – 2022 Utility Fee Schedule" for Water, Gas and Sewer follows on the next page.

**EXHIBIT A  
2022 UTILITY FEES**

<b>GAS</b>	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>
Residential Tap	\$600	\$1,000
Residential Tap with 1 or more year round appliance	\$0	\$0
Commercial Tap	Varies	Varies
Residential Meter	\$10/M	\$12/M
Commercial Meter	\$18/M	\$20/M
Winter Reconnect	\$50	\$150
<b>WATER</b>		
3/4" Tap	\$700	\$1,350
1" Tap	\$800	\$1,775
2" Tap	\$1,350	\$3,000
3/4" RPZ	\$255	\$350
1"RPZ	\$285	\$400
1 1/2" RPZ	\$475	\$750
2" RPZ	\$550	\$1,000
1 1/2" DOUBLE CHECK	\$400	\$550
2" DOUBLE CHECK	\$500	\$850
Industrial Tap	Varies	Varies
Reconnection fee	\$100	\$150
Temp meter fee	\$100	\$150
<b>WASTEWATER</b>		
6" SERVICE	\$1,250	\$1,700
Industrial Tap	Varies	Varies
Connection fee	\$300	\$300
Camera Van - per hour	\$200	\$250
Vac Truck - per hour	\$250	\$300

- End of Exhibit A -

**Motion to award Engineering Consulting Services Agreement for 2022 Community Development Grant (CDBG – Dewey City Area Phase II).**

City Engineer, Todd Powell reported the competitive grant cycle for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is now open, and the city will be submitting an application per an approved resolution dated January 24, 2022. It is the desire of the city to work with a professional engineering firm to produce the preliminary engineering report that is part of the application that is due June 3, 2022, and if awarded, that firm would perform the design engineering and construction administration. The 2022 application would be for water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure improvements in and around the Dewey City area – Phase 2 – for a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 and a cash match of at least 10%. The project will include road resurfacing after infrastructure improvements are complete. A request for proposals was advertised per the guidelines set by the Department of Community Affairs for 30 days. Four proposals were received from Carter & Sloope; Keck & Wood; Watkins & Associates; and Hofstadter & Associates. Each firm was rated independently by a selection committee of three, and Carter & Sloope was



recommended by the selection committee as being the most qualified engineering firm for this project. Councilmember Warren inquired how many attended the community meeting held on this matter. City Engineer Powell reported there were approximately 14 attendees and the meeting was also made available online by Zoom.

Councilmember Chastain motioned to award the Engineering Consulting Services Agreement for 2022 Community Development Block Grant to Carter & Sloope, 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

**Approval of Alcohol One Day Event Permit for Consumption of Beer and Wine for Hands on Thomas County’s “Cheers for Volunteers” event held at The Ritz Amphitheater.**

Business & Tax Licensing Administrator, Melissa Creel reported Hands on Thomas County has submitted an application for one-day alcohol event permit for beer and wine consumption for the Cheers for Volunteers event to be held at The Ritz Amphitheater. The applicant has been through the proper procedures and has completed the application for approval. Thomasville Police Department found no issues or concerns with the approval of this license and has provided a letter of approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve Hands On Thomas County’s Alcohol One Day Event Permit for “Cheers for Volunteers”, 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

**Approval of Alcohol License for Beer and Wine Package for Taltola, Inc. (DBA Like Food Mart & Beauty Accessories).**

Business & Tax Licensing Administrator, Melissa Creel reported Taltola, Inc. DBA Like Food Mart & Beauty Accessories, Salim Reza (owner) has completed application for Alcohol License for Beer and Wine Package for the establishment located at 456 West Jackson Street. The license is issued by the City is conditioned upon the applicant obtaining a like permit from the Georgia Department of Revenue, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit.

Councilmember Chastain motioned to approve the Alcohol License for Beer and Wine Package to Taltola, Inc. 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

Following the approval of the alcohol license, Mayor Flowers read the following statement to Mr. Salim Reza.

“As part of your application process, you 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 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 received a copy of the current Thomasville Municipal Code Chapter 3, titled “Alcoholic Beverages”.”

Mr. Salim acknowledged he had received and understood the required procedures.

**Bids and award for the purchase of one 2022 International Dump Truck for the Public Works Department.**

Public Works Superintendent, Stephen Stewart reported the Public Works Department budgeted \$90,000.00 in their 2021 budget for the purchase of a dump truck to be utilized for debris removal, concrete, and ditch debris during cleaning as well as other related projects for the Public Works Department. The purchase will replace Unit #245 1996 model (85,184 mi.) which had been recommended by Fleet committee for replacement. Three bids were received, all bid amounts were above the approved budgeted amount. Superintendent Stewart reported that due to bids received that were over budget, he requested Council approve the lowest bid in the amount of \$102,471.78; which was

\$12,471.78 over the budgeted amount. Councilmember Warren inquired of the warranty provided with this purchase. Superintendent Stewart reported it would have the standard offered warranty offered by the vendor. A summary of bids received follows.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Truck Equipment Sales (Mobile, Alabama) with electric dump	\$102,471.78
Truck Equipment Sales (Mobile, Alabama) with hydraulic hoist	\$107,771.78
Nexttran Truck Centers (Tallahassee, Florida)	\$110,265.50

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the over budget expenditure and award the bid to Truck Equipment Sales of Mobile, Alabama, for the purchase of an International Dump Truck with electric dump in the amount of \$102,471.78. 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

### REPORTS

City Manager Carson reported the Council approved Water Gas and Sewer Fee Schedule will go into effect on July 1, 2022.

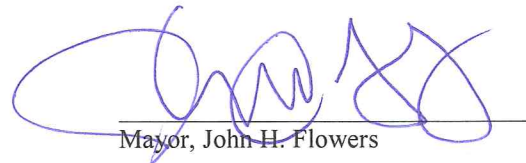
Councilmember Warren inquired if the annual Rose Show and Festival would be held this year. Assistant City Manager Sealy reported it would be held April 22-23, 2021 and a report would be provided to Council and the community next month.

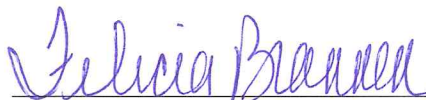
Mayor Flowers reported he had an opportunity to participate in a celebration for Ambassador Andrew J. Young; whose first pastorate was in Thomasville, Georgia. Ambassador Young is 90 years old this year. Mayor Flowers noted that Ambassador Young was present when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated; having driven overnight to be in Washington to be there when Dr. King made his speech. Mayor Flowers

### ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to discuss, the Thomasville City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, John H. Flowers

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST: City Clerk

