

## City of Thomasville Council Meeting, April 25, 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**

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the April 11, 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.

### **PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**

City Manager Carson recognized City of Thomasville Main Street, Tourism, Event and Marketing Departments' coordination efforts of the 101<sup>st</sup> Rose Show & Festival. Managing Director of Marketing and Communications, April Norton reported the events of the annual Rose Show & Festival could not be done without the support of Councilmembers, City Manager and Assistant City Managers. Director Norton recognized the coordination team for the event:

Madison Eaton, Tourism & Events Manager  
Ashlyn Johnson, Director of Strategic Marketing  
Bonnie Hayes, Director of Tourism  
Christy Owens, Public Information Officer  
Main Street Manager, Brandy Avery  
Andy Goodwin, Business Development Manager  
Stephen Stewart, Public Works Superintendent  
Brian Allensworth, Urban Landscape Manager

Director Norton also noted that the events of the annual Rose Show and Festival are successful due to the efforts of community partners and the 400+ employees of all departments within the City of Thomasville.

### **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. Lucinda Brown commended staff for efforts involving the Rose Show & Festival weekend events. She stated she was addressing Council with concerns on behalf of the residents of Halcyon Way. These residents are requesting the City right the wrong that was done many years ago in relation to the creation of this subdivision. Brown stated the residents of Halcyon Way are requesting that sewer, infrastructure and paving be completed in this area as they are in adjacent areas.
2. Candee Henderson requested Council take actions necessary for the City of Thomasville to be ready for 100% Renewable Energy by 2035. She encouraged Councilmembers to visit the website [www.drawdownga.com](http://www.drawdownga.com) to research ideas and ways to reduce Thomasville's carbon footprint. Henderson also noted that education should be provided to citizens regarding the three "R"s of recycling: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. She concluded with stating that until corporate America is held responsible for what they produce, we Americans have to do something.

Citizen, John Block was present and requested to speak to Council, as he had arrived to the meeting after the sign in sheet was removed for the meeting. Mayor Flowers reviewed the procedures for Citizens to be Heard and the prior action of signing in to speak. Mr. Block was encouraged to attend a subsequent Council meeting at which he would be permitted time to speak after following the procedures to do so.

### **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**

There was no Old Business for consideration at this meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution to distribute LOST Funds for Recreation to the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo.**

Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason reported on November 3, 1992, the voters of Thomas County, Georgia approved a referendum for Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) in the amount of 1%. This one percent is split between the City and County for various purposes that will mutually benefit the community. A percentage of those funds are designated for the purposes of recreational activities for the City of Thomasville and for the towns of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo. In the past, the Thomas County Recreation Advisory Board has recommended the sum of \$5,000 each be distributed to the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo in support of their recreational efforts. After distributing last year's check, the following report was received regarding what those efforts entailed.

- Barwick – Easter and Christmas events in the park and routine maintenance
- Meigs – Back to school and Halloween events
- Boston – Routine maintenance
- Pavo – Routine maintenance
- Ochlocknee – Routine maintenance
- Coolidge – Routine maintenance

CFO Cason further reported appropriations for these distributions were included in the budget again this year, specifically in the 2022 Parks & Recreation's operating budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the resolution to distribute LOST Funds for Recreation to the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee and Pavo 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.

The approved resolution follows.

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on November 3, 1992, the voters of Thomas County, Georgia, approved by referendum a Local Option Sales Tax (the "LOST"), also known as a Joint County and Municipal Sales and Use Tax, in the amount of one percent (1%); and

WHEREAS, from the proceeds of the LOST, certain funds are designated to be remitted to the City of Thomasville to be administered for purposes of miscellaneous recreation activities for the City of Thomasville and for the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee and Pavo; and

WHEREAS, from those funds, the sum of \$5,000.00 per fiscal year, as appropriated by the City Council for the City of Thomasville, may be allocated to the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee and Pavo for use in the recreation programs of these cities; and

WHEREAS, the Thomasville – Thomas County Recreation Advisory Board has recommended that the sum of \$5,000.00 be distributed as soon as possible hereafter to each of the smaller cities referred to above, to be used by each such city for miscellaneous recreation purposes during the balance of fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, upon review and consideration by the City Council for the City of Thomasville of the recommendation of the Thomasville-Thomas County Recreation Advisory Board as described above, the City Council deems the recommendation to be prudent and consistent with the objectives of the LOST with respect to funding miscellaneous recreation activities in Thomas County, Georgia.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council for the City of Thomasville that the recommendation of the Thomasville-Thomas County Recreation Advisory Board be, and it is hereby, accepted and adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Alan Carson and Chief Financial Officer Ashley Cason are authorized to make the distributions set out above from LOST monies remitted to the City of Thomasville and to forward those distributions to the mayors of the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo, along with appropriate instructions on the conditions under which the funds are distributed, as soon as practicable hereafter.

SO RESOLVED this 25th day of April, 2022.

**Motion to approve Alcohol License for Beer, Wine and Liquor Package for Three Oaks Wine & Spirits located at 2525 East Pinetree Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia.**

Business & Tax Licensing Administrator, Melissa Creel reported Manjulaben Patel has completed an Alcohol License Application for Beer, Wine, and Liquor Package for Three Oaks Wine & Spirit located at 2525 East Pinetree Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia. It was noted that the license 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 Scott motioned to approve the Alcohol License Application for Beer, Wine, and Liquor Package as requested. 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.

Following the Council's approval of the Alcohol License, Mayor Flowers read the following statement to the applicant:

*"As part of the application process, the applicant signed an affidavit stating that he/she understands the sale of alcoholic beverages to an underage person is an illegal act, punishable by law, in the State of Georgia; and, The applicant understands the code requirements as they relate to the*

*required training program and prohibition of sales of alcoholic beverages to an underage person; and, The applicant received a copy of the current Thomasville Municipal Code Chapter 3, titled "Alcoholic Beverages".*

Ms. Manjulaben Patel acknowledged receipt of, and understanding of, the ordinances as they pertained to alcoholic beverages.

**Motion to ratify emergency action of award for bid for tree removal at Balfour Park.**

Manager, Parks/Recreation & Golf, Mike Owens reported as a result of the recent tornados here in Thomasville, approximately (45) trees were blown down in Balfour Park. The City obtained bids for the removal of the downed trees from local tree service companies and other contractors. The bids were based on:

- Remove all downed trees and either grind the stumps or fill the root ball hole with back fill
- Remove all the trees that were snapped in half and grind the stumps
- Remove and dispose of the tree tops and the stumps
- Remove (2) damaged, leaning pine trees near the 3<sup>rd</sup> pavilion in the dog park section

Due to the nature of the emergency and the necessary removal of trees for reconnection of utility services to customers, the bid was awarded to Bannister Tree Service in the amount of \$27,000. Manager Owens reviewed before and after photos of the affected areas. The following is a summary of bids received.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID</u>
Bannister Tree Service	\$27,000
Johnson's Lawn Care	\$28,250
McKenzie's Tree Service	\$30,950
Allen Turf Management	\$82,000

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the ratification of the bid award to Bannister Tree Service, in the amount of \$27,000 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.

**REPORTS**

City Manager Carson, City Attorney and Councilmembers collectively commended staff on their coordination efforts and a successful 101<sup>st</sup> Rose Show & Festival.

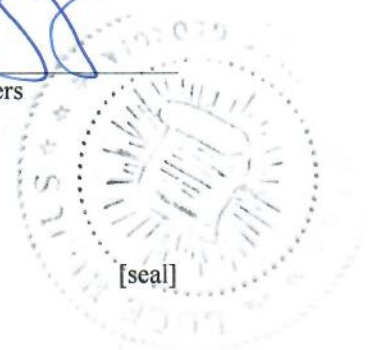
**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, the Thomasville City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:31PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

  
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Mayor, John H. Flowers

  
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ATTEST: City Clerk



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