

## City of Thomasville Council Meeting, August 22, 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 Terry Scott and Scott Chastain. Also present were the Assistant City Manager, Sheryl Sealy; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; other city staff; citizens and members of the media. It shall be noted that Councilmember Wanda Warren and City Manager, J. Alan Carson, were absent from this meeting. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 144 East Jackson Street, Thomasville, Georgia. 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 Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### INVOCATION

Councilmember Scott gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2022. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Scott and Chastain.

### CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

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

1. Lucinda Brown, resident of Halcyon Way, Thomasville, Georgia voiced concerns about the proposed Cemetery Fee Schedule. She noted that the proposed increases will make it difficult for family members to bury their loved ones. She encouraged Councilmembers to not increase the cemetery fees and revisit the fees at Golf Course and Airport for increased revenue.

### ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Scott motioned to approve the agenda as requested. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Scott and Chastain.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Second reading of an ordinance to adopt and enact the recodification of the City of Thomasville Code of Ordinances.**

City Clerk, Felicia Brannen reported there were no amendments to the ordinance since its passage on first reading at the August 8, 2022 Council Meeting. It was noted that the ordinance adopts and enacts the recodification completed by Municode, powered by CivicPlus, of the City of Thomasville Code of Ordinances and the new code would be available to the public within two weeks of the adoption of the ordinance.

Councilmember Scott motioned to order the ordinance to adopt and enact the recodification of the City of Thomasville Code of Ordinances as read for the second time, passed and adopted, as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded. Councilmembers collectively commended the efforts of staff to present Thomasville's Code to its citizens in a manner

that is easy to use and access. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

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

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE FOR THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE; AND PROVIDING WHEN SUCH CODE AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, AND IT IS ESTABLISHED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Code entitled "The Code of Thomasville, Georgia," published by Municode, consisting of chapters 1 through 22, each inclusive, is adopted.

Section 2. All ordinances of a general and permanent nature enacted on or before March 14, 2022, and not included in the Code or recognized and continued in force by reference therein, are repealed.

Section 3. The repeal provided for in section 2 hereof shall not be construed to revive any ordinance or part thereof that has been repealed by a subsequent ordinance that is repealed by this ordinance.

Section 4. Unless another penalty is expressly provided, every person convicted of a violation of any provision of the Code or any ordinance, rule or regulation adopted or issued in pursuance thereof shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00, imprisonment for a period not to six months (only 30 days of which may be served in confinement). Except as otherwise provided by law or ordinance: (i) With respect to violations of this Code that are continuous with respect to time, each day that the violation continues is a separate offense; and (ii) With respect to violations that are not continuous with respect to time, each act is a separate offense. The penalty provided by this section, unless another penalty is expressly provided, shall apply to the amendment of any Code section, whether or not such penalty is reenacted in the amendatory ordinance. In addition to the penalty prescribed above, the city may pursue other remedies such as abatement of nuisances, injunctive relief and revocation of licenses or permits.

Section 5. Additions or amendments to the Code when passed in such form as to indicate the intention to make the same a part of the Code shall be deemed to be incorporated in the Code, so that reference to the Code includes the additions and amendments.

Section 6. Ordinances adopted after March 14, 2022, that amend or refer to ordinances that have been codified in the Code shall be construed as if they amend or refer to like provisions of the Code.

Section 7. This ordinance shall become effective on the date of its passage.

This ordinance was introduced and read at a lawful meeting of the city council for the City of Thomasville, Georgia, held on August 8, 2022, and read the second time, passed and adopted in like meeting held on August 22, 2022.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Motion to approve the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.**

Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason reported a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is a thorough and detailed presentation of the City's financial condition. It reports on the city's activities and balances for each fiscal year, and goes well beyond the basic requirements of annual financial reporting. This report provides general information on

the City's structure and the services it provides, basic financial statements, footnotes and required supplementary information along with the auditor's report, and a broad range of statistical information that covers multiple years. Independent auditors, Mauldin & Jenkins, conduct an annual audit to express an opinion on the accuracy and completion of the financial statements and notes represented in this report. For, 2021, the auditors issued an unmodified audit report, which means the financials are fairly and accurately presented. Chief Financial Officer Cason further reported that for 2021, the City's overall Net Position (city-wide) was \$239,255,132. A substantial portion of the net position is the net investment in capital assets, which was approximately \$133,069,878. The overall change in Net Position (Net Income) for the 2021-year end was \$14,162,591. Per the City-Wide Statement of Activities, the Governmental Activities reflected a net position of \$52,669,829. This is an increase of \$4,638,607 from prior year. While the Enterprise or Business type Activities reflected a net position of \$186,585,303. And this is an increase of \$9,523,954 from prior year. Increases in net income in 2021 can be contributed to delays in several ongoing operating and capital projects. The financials also reflect roughly 3.4 million dollars more in revenues due to the unexpected American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding plus significant increases in revenue due to the increase in value for the City's pension asset and South Georgia Governmental Services Authority (SGGSA) investment.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the City of Thomasville's 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR). Councilmember Scott seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

#### **Motion to approve Cemetery Department Fee Schedule.**

Public Works Superintendent, Stephen Stewart reported a number of fees are charged by the Cemetery Department to provide its multitude of services. The fees are charged to customers purchasing grave spaces or lots and interment, which includes recording names, dates, funeral home and cremations, etc. to aid in covering the costs. Fees for the Cemetery have not been updated since 2000. To accurately adjust fees assessed by the City of Thomasville to cover the cost of providing interment services, staff has reviewed the fees as well as the various costs that are involved in the delivery of these services. In addition, staff also conducted a survey of Municipalities and private Cemeteries in the area as additional information to consider in the final recommended fee schedule that is presented to City Council for approval. Superintendent Stewart reviewed the proposed Cemetery Department Fee Schedule. It was noted that the proposed Cemetery Department Fee Schedule would have an effective date of November 1, 2022 and requires text amendments to Chapter 6, titled "Cemeteries"; provided Council approved the proposed fee schedule and subsequent ordinance amendments as presented. Councilmember Scott indicated he was not in favor of raising fees. Discussion ensued regarding the future space availability at all of the cemeteries owned by the City of Thomasville. It was reported that staff analysis has revealed that Laurel Hill Cemetery would be completely filled in approximately four years. At that time, it will place a burden on the remaining cemeteries for space availability and it is anticipated that in approximately six years all City of Thomasville cemeteries will no longer have space availability. Superintendent Stewart reported that purchases of lots with four grave spaces were no longer being purchased as "family plots"; which has resulted in the sale of more individual lots. Superintendent Stewart reviewed the following brief history of cemetery fees.

In 1991 a 4-space lot (10'X19') was sold for \$125.00 with the option of purchasing perpetual care for \$3.00 per square foot at \$570.00 for a total of \$695.00.

In 1995 a 4-space lot (10'X19') was sold for \$250.00 with the option of purchasing perpetual care for \$3.00 per square foot at \$570.00 for a total of \$820.00.

In 1999, the perpetual care was no longer offered as an additional option, due to the ongoing maintenance care provided in the cemeteries; and, on January 1, 2000, rates were increased to \$800.00 for the 4-space lot (10'X19') to include perpetual care and single grave spaces were purchased at \$250.00 each. A \$50.00 discount was given per space if the entire 10'X19' lot was purchased.

Mayor Flowers noted other factors were considered as well, such as the \$460,000.00 annual cost to maintain the cemeteries; the changes in family dynamics regarding thoughts and actions of interment; and the availability of future grave spaces.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the Cemetery Department Fee Schedule as recommended. Councilmember Chastain seconded. Councilmember Scott noted he was not in favor of the proposed increases;

however, he had a much better understanding of the increases and thanked everyone for further clarification. The motion remained unchanged. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

The approved Cemetery Department Fee Schedule follows.

EXHIBIT A - 2022 CEMETERY FEE SCHEDULE

SERVICE PROVIDED	CURRENT FEE	RECOMMENDED FEE
Individual space (5x10)	\$250.00	\$500.00
4-space lot (10X19)*	\$800.00	No longer available for sale
Infant space (designated area)	\$100.00	\$200.00
Interment Fee- Includes locating and marking grave space, recording names, dates, funeral home, cremations etc.	\$100.00	\$200.00

*\*No longer sell 4-space lots*

*Ordinance amendment is required.*

*Effective Date: November 1, 2022*

END EXHIBIT A - 2022 CEMETERY FEE SCHEDULE

**Motion to approve Approval of Engineering Fee Schedule.**

Executive Director of Inspection and Engineering, Mark Harmon reported the City Engineering Dept. started reviewing residential and commercial development in 1995 mostly for water and sewer taps, easements, and storm water impervious impact. Today, City of Thomasville Engineering Department coordinates its review with Building Department, Fire Department, Planning Department, Electric Department, and CNS. Solid Waste, gas, water, sewer, storm water, right of way, land disturbance, traffic control, flood plain management, and wetlands are reviewed in more detail by the Engineering Department with emphasis on customer service (internal and external). Meeting state and federal regulations along with protection of City Assets are also a priority in the engineering review process. One, some, or all the above may be included in a single review. The fees charged by Engineering only capture a portion of costs with regards to time and effort spent reviewing commercial and residential development. Director Harmon reviewed the proposed fee schedule.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the Engineering Department Fee Schedule as recommended. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Scott and Chastain.

The approved Engineering Department Fee Schedule follows.

EXHIBIT A –ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE

SERVICE PROVIDED	CURRENT FEE	RECOMMENDED FEE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Residential Review	\$25.00	\$25.00	Provide oversite for land disturbance, ROW or easement encroachment. For other communities, this fee is often combined within the Subdivision/Site/Development \$2,000-\$4,000 plus per unit fees.
Commercial Review	\$250.00	\$250.00	Review for storm water, land disturbance, ROW or easement encroachment, utility conflicts, etc.
- Additional Reviews	\$50.00	\$50.00	
- Outside consultant Reviews	\$200 +hr	\$200 +hr	
Subdivision minor; 3 lots or less	\$250.00	\$250.00	Storm water oversite, land disturbance review, utility conflicts, ROW or easement encroachment, etc.
Subdivision large; or Apartment	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
- 1 <sup>st</sup> Additional Review	\$500.00	\$500.00	
- Additional Reviews	\$250.00	\$250.00	
- Outside consultant Review	\$200+ hr	\$200+ hr	
Subdivision Final Plat Review	\$100.00-\$500.00	\$100.00-\$500.00	Based upon size of development.
Engineering Fee Utilities	10% of cost	10% of cost	Engineering utility fee is 10% of this total of the installation cost of City Crews.
Utility Letter of Availability	\$50.00	\$50.00	Provides the Customer with what utilities are available to a specific parcel.
Utility Maps (GIS)/SF	\$25.00	\$25.00	Provide a GIS sheet map.
Street Closing	\$350.00	\$350.00	Design a traffic rerouting pattern and appropriate signage.
Storm Water Impact	\$0.10/SF	\$0.00	Will be reviewed as part of City of Thomasville storm water master plan.
Soil and Erosion			This is a full storm water compliance review.
- Commercial under 1 acre	\$300.00	\$300.00	
- All over 1 acre	Base+\$40.00/ac	Base+\$40.00/ac	
- Residential under 1 acre	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Right of Way Permit	\$50.00	\$50.00	This is a review for any planned encroachment into the City ROW.

*Note: Many communities include these engineering reviews and fees from other departments within their organization. The City of Thomasville Engineering Department coordinates its review with Building Department, Fire Department, Planning Department, Electric Department, and CNS. Solid Waste, gas water, sewer, stormwater, right of way, land disturbance, traffic control, flood plain management, and wetlands are reviewed in more detail by the Engineering Department with emphasis on customer service (internal and external). Meeting state and federal regulations along with protection of City Assets are also a priority in the engineering review process. One, some, or all of the above, may be included in a single review.*

*Effective Date: November 1, 2022*

END EXHIBIT A –ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE

**Motion to approve Customer Service Department Fee Schedule.**

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel reported that several fees are charged by the Customer Service Department to provide a multitude of services, which includes the alcohol licensing fees. These fees are generally charged to the business owner for the purpose of providing an annual alcohol license to the location of the business and the owner. 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 the various costs that are involved in the delivery of the service to the business owner. 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 Customer Service Department, which specifically includes the alcohol license fees. Staff has reviewed all current fees, associated costs to deliver services and final survey comparisons. Manager Creel reviewed the proposed fee schedule. It was noted that the proposed license fee for Sunday sales, presented at Workshop, was removed.

Councilmember Scott motioned to approve the proposed Customer Service Department Fee Schedule as recommended. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no further discussion. The Motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Scott and Chastain.

The approved recommended Customer Service Fee Schedule follows.

EXHIBIT A – CUSTOMER SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE

ALCOHOL LICENSES	CURRENT FEE	RECOMMENDED FEE	INFORMATION
Beer Package	\$400.00 – Annual	\$500.00 – Annual	
Beer Consumption	\$400.00 – Annual	\$500.00 – Annual	
Beer package and consumption	\$500.00 – Annual	\$600.00 – Annual	
Beer Catering	\$100.00 – Annual	\$400.00 – Annual	
Wine Package	\$350.00 – Annual	\$450.00 – Annual	
Wine Consumption	\$350.00 – Annual	\$450.00 – Annual	
Wine Package and Consumption	\$450.00 – Annual	\$550.00 – Annual	
Wine Catering	\$100.00 – Annual	\$400.00 – Annual	
Liquor Pouring	\$2,000.00 - Annual	\$2,500.00 – Annual	
Liquor Package	\$4,000.00 – Annual	\$5,000.00 – Annual	
Liquor Catering	\$500.00 – Annual	No Change	
Catering Permit	\$25.00 – Event	\$50.00 – Event	
Brewery	Not established	\$1,500.00 – Annual	
Winery	Not established	\$1,500.00 – Annual	
Distillery manufacturing	\$1,500.00 – Annual	No Change	
Beer and Wine Application Fee	\$60.00 – Application	\$100.00 – Application	
Liquor package and pouring Application Fee	\$150.00 – Application	No change	
One-Day Special Event Permit	\$0.00	\$100.00 – Event	

ALCOHOL EXCISE TAX	CURRENT	RECOMMENDED	INFORMATION
Beer Distribution	\$1.50 – Case	No change per state statute	Rates are set within local ordinance 3-156 through 3-157.
Liquor and Wine Manufacturers	\$.22 – Unit for every dollar	No change per state statute	Rates are set within the local ordinance 3-180 through 3-185.
Spirituos Liquor buy the drink	\$.03 – Unit for every dollar	No change per state statute	Rates are set within the local ordinance 3-206 through 3-208.

*Ordinance amendment required.*

*Effective Date: November 1, 2022*

END EXHIBIT A – CUSTOMER SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE

**Motion to approve Alcohol License for Beer and Wine Package for Hariram 72, LLC D.B.A. Chevron Food Mart, 408 S. Broad Street, Thomasville, Georgia.**

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel reported Hariram72, LLC D.B.A. Chevron Food Mart, located at 408 South Broad Street, Thomasville, has changed ownership. The new owner, Kapilaben Patel, has completed application for Alcohol License for Beer and Wine Package for the establishment. 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. Manager Creel further reported the owner had signed the City of Thomasville affidavit relating to the sale of alcohol to underage persons and the owner was made aware of the annual mystery shopper program.

Councilmember Chastain motioned to approve the Alcohol License for Beer and Wine Package for Hariram72, LLC D.B.A. Chevron Food Mart, Kapilaben Patel (owner) as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Scott and Chastain.

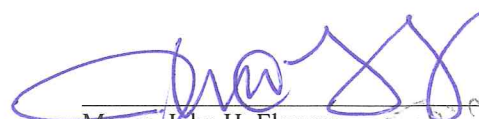
**REPORTS**

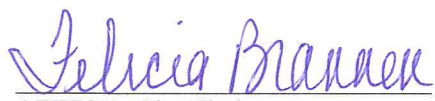
Mayor Flowers reported the City of Thomasville was seeking to fill available positions and encouraged citizens seeking employment to apply.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business for consideration, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

  
 Mayor, John H. Flowers

  
 ATTEST: City Clerk

