

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, January 23, 2023

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in regular session on the above date. Mayor Jay Flowers presided and the following Councilmembers were present: Mayor Pro Tem Todd Mobley and Councilmembers Wanda Warren, Terry Scott, and Scott Chastain. Also present were the City Manager, J. Alan Carson; Assistant City Managers, Sheryl Sealy and Chris White; City Attorney, Tim Sanders; 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. 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 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

Councilmember Scott motioned to approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2023, as presented. Mayor Pro tem Mobley seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

Councilmember Scott Chastain recognized Honorary Councilmember Austin Williams. Councilmember Scott presented Mr. Williams with a commemorative plaque for his service as the Honorary Councilmember of December 2022. Mr. Williams thanked the City Council for opportunity to serve.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Flowers acknowledged the following citizen as listed on the Citizens to be Heard Sing-In Sheet:

1. Veronica Scott, resident of Pinecrest Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia, addressed Council with concerns of speeding vehicles in the neighborhood in which she lives. She requested the Thomasville Police Department to conduct a periodic drive-thru of this area to assist with deterring speeding in the neighborhood.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Chastain motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilmember Scott seconded. There was no 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 set candidate qualifying fees for the 2023 Municipal General Election.

City Clerk, Felicia Brannen, reported there had been no changes, or public comment, to the ordinance since its passage on first reading. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to order the ordinance to set candidate qualifying fees for the 2023 Municipal General Election as read for the second time, passed and adopted, as presented. Councilmember Warren

seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

The adopted ordinance follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CANDIDATE QUALIFYING FEES FOR THE 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that for the 2023 municipal elections the qualifying fee for the office of City Councilmember shall be \$607.68.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that for the 2023 municipal elections the qualifying fee for the office of City Board of Education shall be \$35.00.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that said fees shall be paid to the Municipal Election Superintendent at the time a candidate files qualifying fee as prescribed by O.C.G.A. §21-2-131 (c)(5)(B).

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

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the provisions of this ordinance shall not be made a part of the official codified ordinances of the City of Thomasville.

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

This ordinance was introduced and read for the first time in a lawful meeting of the City Council held on January 9, 2023, and passed and adopted on the second reading of the ordinance at a lawful meeting of the City Council held on January 23, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

First reading of three separate ordinances to authorize the acquisition of permanent easements in connection with the Old Albany Road Sidewalk Project (GDOT PI#0015394).

City Attorney, Tim Sanders, reported that on December 7, 2021, the City of Thomasville was selected to be awarded by the Georgia Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2022 funding for right-of-way (ROW) funds for the Old Albany Road Sidewalk Project (GDOT PI #0015394). The easements are identified and described as follows:

1. Parcel 3: The acquisition of a permanent easement for construction and maintenance of slopes and drainage of approximately 1,517.87 square feet at 201 Old Albany Road from John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Inc. in exchange for consideration of \$610.

Councilmember Scott motioned to order the ordinance to authorize the acquisition of a permanent easement for construction and maintenance of slopes and drainage for Parcel 3, as described above, as read for the first time, passed, and carried over, as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley seconded. There was no 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 first time, passed and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SLOPES AND DRAINAGE OF APPROXIMATELY 1,517.87 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT 201 OLD ALBANY ROAD IN CONNECTION WITH OLD ALBANY ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT (GDOT PI # 0015394); TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

2. Parcel 4: The acquisition of a permanent easement for construction and maintenance of slopes and drainage of approximately 665.19 square feet located at 820 Cairo Road from John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Inc. in exchange for consideration of \$500.

Councilmember Warren motioned to order the ordinance to authorize the acquisition of a permanent easement for construction and maintenance of slopes and drainage for Parcel 4, as described above, as read for the first time, passed, and carried over, as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no 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 first time, passed and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SLOPES AND DRAINAGE OF APPROXIMATELY 665.19 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT 820 CAIRO ROAD IN CONNECTION WITH OLD ALBANY ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT (GDOT PI # 0015394); TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

3. Parcel 5: The acquisition of a permanent easement for construction and maintenance of slopes and drainage of approximately 2,464.71 square feet and a permanent utility easement of approximately 10,719.62 square feet located at 401 Old Albany Road from John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Inc. in exchange for consideration of \$2,372.56.

Councilmember Scott motioned to order the ordinance to authorize the acquisition of a permanent easement for construction and maintenance of slopes and drainage for Parcel 5, as described above, as read for the first time, passed, and carried over, as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no 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 first time, passed and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SLOPES AND DRAINAGE OF APPROXIMATELY 2,464.71 SQUARE FEET AND A PERMANENT UTILITIES EASEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 10,719.62 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT 401 OLD ALBANY ROAD IN CONNECTION WITH OLD ALBANY ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT (GDOT PI # 0015394); TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Resolution appointing County Commissioner Mark NeSmith as a member of the Thomasville Payroll Development Authority.

City Attorney, Tim Sanders, reported Thomas County Commission Chairman Zippy Vonier has declined to serve as a member of the Thomasville Payroll Development Authority (PDA). The PDA Act provides that if the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners declines to serve on the PDA, the City of Thomasville City Council is responsible for appointing a member to fill the vacancy created. Commissioner Chairman Vonier has recommended Commissioner Mark NeSmith to serve as a member of the PDA in his place.

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

The approved resolution follows.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Thomasville Payroll Development Authority (“PDA”) was created by an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia, proposed by House Resolution Act No. 175 of the 1960 General Assembly and duly ratified at the 1960 general election (Ga. L. 1960, p. 1329) (“Act”);

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 1., C., (3) of the Act, “The said Authority shall consist of five (5) members, one of whom shall be . . . the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues of Thomas County;”

WHEREAS, Section 1., C., (4) of the Act provides that “In the event . . . the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues of Thomas County shall resign as a member of said authority during their term of office, or fail and refuse to qualify and take the prescribed oath, then there shall be deemed a vacancy which may be filled by the Commissioners of the City of Thomasville by election of a member whose term shall run concurrently with the term of office of such official refusing to qualify and serve;”

WHEREAS, Commissioner Zippy Vonier, who was duly elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County for a term of one (1) year, declined to serve as a member of the PDA and recommended Thomas Commissioner Mark NeSmith to serve in place of the Chairman;

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville desires to elect Thomas County Commissioner Mark NeSmith as a member of the PDA in accordance with Section 1., C., (4) of the Act to serve a term concurrent with that of Chairman Vonier’s one (1) year term.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth fully herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with the Act, the Council of the City of Thomasville hereby elects Commissioner Mark NeSmith as a member of the PDA in accordance with Section 1., C., (4) of the Act to serve a term concurrent with that of Chairman Vonier’s one (1) year term as Chairman of the Thomas County Board of Commissioners.

SO RESOLVED, this 23rd day of January, 2023.

This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

Resolution to appoint Alternate Voting Delegate for Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG).

Assistant City Manager, Chris White, reported the alternate voting delegate for the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) is currently Chris Hayes. Mayor Pro Tem Todd Mobley is the current voting delegate for MGAG.

The alternate voting delegate needs to be updated due to changes in personnel. It was recommended that Assistant City Manager Sealy be appointed as the replacement alternate voting delegate.

Councilmember Scott motioned to approve the resolution to appoint the alternate voting delegate for MGAG, as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

The approved resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia that Sheryl Sealy, Assistant City Manager, is hereby appointed to serve as this City's alternate voting delegate on the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia's Election Committee, with authority to cast votes to which this City is entitled.

This 23rd day of January, 2023.

Motion to approve Alcohol Beverage Beer & Wine License for Racks Pool Hall, 2613 East Pinetree Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia.

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel, reported Kristie Erskine has completed application for License to Engage in the Business of Selling Retail Beer and Retail Wine for Consumption at the establishment located at Racks Pool Hall, LLC, located at 2613 East Pinetree Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia. 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 Scott motioned to approve the Alcohol License for Retail Beer and Wine Consumption for Racks Pool Hall, LLC, Kristie Erskine (co-owner), as presented. Councilmember Chastain seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

Motion to approve active 2023 Pawn Broker License Renewals.

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel, reported that all 2023 Pawn Broker renewal licenses had been paid in full and required approval of the licenses by City Council. She noted the 2023 renewals included Paw Broker licenses for categories of General and Vehicle; General Only; and, Vehicle Only.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to approve the 2023 Paw Broker Licenses as presented. Councilmember Warren seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded:

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

The approved licensed establishments follows.

2023 PAWN BROKERS RENEWAL LIST AS OF December 19, 2022 FOR THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31792

<u>License #</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Business Name/Address</u>	<u>Charges</u>
PAWNBROKER – GENERAL AND VEHICLE			
58	2022	American Pawn Shop, 1306-A East Jackson Street	\$150.00
2550	2022	American Pawn Shop, 1306-A East Jackson Street	\$2,500.00
PAWNBROKER – GENERAL			
1237	2022	Shepards Bait & Tackle & Pawn, 1006 West Jackson Street	\$150.00

PAWNBROKER – VEHICLE

2701	2022	TitleBucks of Thomasville, 1308 East Jackson Street	\$2,500.00
3368	2022	TitleMax of Thomasville, 15177 US Highway 19 South	\$2,500.00
4946	2022	First Choice Title, 914 East Jackson Street	\$2,500.00

REPORTS

Councilmembers Warren, Scott and Chastain collectively reported having enjoyed the recent training provided at the Cities United Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, as it was very informative.

Councilmember Warren encouraged citizens to attend the festivities planned in celebration of Black History Month in February.

Mayor Flowers reported having recently signed up for a program titled “The Mayor’s Reading Club”. Statistics show that levels in third grade are predictors for the future and encouraged the community to be involved in local literacy efforts. Mayor Flowers also encouraged citizens to attend upcoming workforce events being held at the Southern Regional Technical College and in other areas of the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Mayor Pro Tem, Todd E. Mobley

ATTEST: City Clerk

