The Council of the City of Thomasville met in regular session on the above date. Mayor John H. "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 Manager, 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 media and citizens not present via the City of Thomasville's online live stream feed located at <a href="https://www.thomasville.org">www.thomasville.org</a>.

# **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Flowers called the meeting order at 6:00 PM. Mayor Flowers recognized former Mayor Roy Campbell; who passed away September 9, 2023. Former Mayor Campbell was sworn in as a Councilmember on July 19, 1994. Mr. Campbell served two terms as Mayor (1998-1999 and 2000-2001) and had a significant impact on the City of Thomasville and City Council during his seventeen-year tenure as a councilmember.

# **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 Regular Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2023, 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.

# PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- 1. Councilmember Chastain recognized local Childhood Cancer Awareness Families for a Cure event organizer, Mrs. Sharon Clark Johnson, and childhood cancer survivors and their families present. It was noted that approximately 40,000 children are in active treatment at any given time. Councilmember Chastain acknowledged the efforts of Mrs. Johnson to raise funding for the local Childhood Cancer Awareness campaign through local events. Councilmember Scott presented a Proclamation to Mrs. Johnson that formally proclaimed September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Thomasville, Georgia. Citizens were encouraged to support this cause that so deeply impacts the families in Thomasville and across the county. Mrs. Johnson thanked Council for the helping raise awareness for this cause and encouraged all to participate in the events held in Thomasville throughout the month of September.
- 2. Mayor Flowers recognized Executive Director of the Thomasville Payroll Development Authority, Shelley Zorn; and, Director of Economic Development of the City of Thomasville, Andy Goodwin, for their collective efforts in expanding and developing economic growth in the City of Thomasville and Thomas County. Mayor Flower reported the July 2023 edition of Site Selection Magazine featured *America's Best Counties by Projects Per Capita: The Top 20 from January 2022 through March 2023.* Site Selection Magazine is a leader in delivering expansion planning information to over 44,000 readers. Thomasville & Thomas County were ranked as 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation per capita, for the most jobs announced in the past 12 to 24 months. This includes new and existing industry announcements; most are existing industry and a total of 12 projects.
- 3. Councilmember Warren recognized the efforts of storm recovery crews for their efforts in the City of Thomasville following Hurricane Idalia. She acknowledged City of Thomasville Utility, Public Works,

Operations, Public Safety and many other departments who helped to clear roadways, get power restored in record time and keep the community safe following the hurricane. Councilmember Warren also acknowledged there were ten Mutual Aid Crews from other municipalities that assisted in storm recovery. Councilmember Warren commended members of the Storm Recovery Crews and thanked those team leaders that were present: Assistant Utilities Superintendent, Eric Gossett; Director of Electric Engineering and Operations, Jeremy Carter; Director of Public Works, Stephen Stewart; and Thomasville Police Department Major Wade Glover.

# CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

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

- Sam Fink, resident of Clay Street, Thomasville, Georgia, spoke in opposition of the agenda item regarding
  the leasing of an office building on West Jackson Street for the proposed temporary location of several City
  offices. He voiced concerns regarding the lease amount, proposed renovation costs, and the potential loss of
  tax dollars by City offices in a prime location for retail shops. Mr. Fink requested Council table this item and
  conduct a study of other available properties that would cost much less, for the temporary relocation of the
  Main Street Office, Visitors Center and other City offices currently located in the Municipal Building.
- 2. Marvin Bush, resident of Pinecrest Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns regarding illegal speeding and parking in the area of Pinecrest Boulevard. He asked if speed bumps could be placed on Pinecrest. Mr. Bush voiced further concerns regarding the residents and visitors of a neighboring subdivision parking illegally in vacant lots and on the street in the area. He also requested more of a Police presence in the area to help deter suspicious activity.
- 3. Antoinette Thompson, resident of North Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia, addressed Council with a complaint regarding an error on her utility bill. She stated the error was found to be on the City's side of the process; however, prior to the discovery there was no one who could explain why it happened and she received poor customer service during the process.
- 4. Audrey Linder, resident of Highland Street, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns regarding Council's consideration of leasing the West Jackson Street building. She questioned why there was an urgency to enter into a lease agreement. She also voiced concerns of the costs involved with the lease and renovation, stating the city should be cutting expenses. She asked Councilmembers to not approve the lease agreement.
- 5. Keith Thomas, resident of Woods Gate Lane, Thomasville, Georgia, spoke in favor of increasing the City of Thomasville property tax [millage rate]. He noted the added revenue of an increased millage rate would bring in funding for much needed infrastructure improvements. Mr. Thomas further noted that by not bringing back the property tax; it will place financial burdens on future generations. He commended the City Manager and Council for planning for the future.

# ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Chastain motioned to adopt the agenda 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.

# **OLD BUSINESS**

Second reading of two separate ordinances in relation to annexing and rezoning properties located at on U.S. Highway 19 North, Thomasville, Georgia.

City Planner, Kenny Thompson, reported there were no changes to either of the ordinances since their passage on first reading. City Planner Thompson briefly reviewed the location of the properties.

1. Second reading of an ordinance to annex and rezone a 0.770-acre tract delineated as Parcel No. 1 on Land Lot 83.

Councilmember Warren motioned to order the ordinance to annex and rezone the .770-acre tract delineated as Parcel No. 1 on Land Lot 83 as read for the second time, passed, and adopted, 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 ordinance read for the second time, passed and adopted follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX AND INCORPORATE CERTAIN UNINCORPORATED LAND, WHICH IS CONTIGUOUS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF O.C.G.A 36-36-1 TO THE EXISTING CORPORATE LIMITS OF SAID CITY, UPON THE REQUEST WILLIAM L. CLARK, JOYCE N. CLARK, ANDREW B. CLARK, III AND ALICE FAYE CLARK, OWNER (S) OF THE LAND PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED AND INCORPORATED; TO DESCRIBE THE LAND AND PROVIDE THAT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE ORDINANCE AND SURVEY OF SAID LAND, SO INCORPORATE, BE FILED BY THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA; TO PRESCRIBE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ANNEXATION AS PROVIDED BY O.C.G.A. 36-36-2; TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, OF 1971, AS AMENDED WHICH IS SET FORTH IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE AS CHAPTER 22, CAPTIONED "ZONING", BY EXCLUDING A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND FROM THOMAS COUNTY AND TO DESIGNATE THE SAID SAME TRACT AS PARCEL 66, OF SECTION 22-91 CAPTIONED "C-2 CU, COMMERCIAL CONDITIONAL USE (29. BUILDING CONTRACTOR AND RELATED ACTIVITIES)"; TO ESTABLISH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

#### **SECTION I**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that land described, which land is contiguous under the provisions of O.C.G.A. 36-36-1 to the existing corporate limits of the City of Thomasville and which is incorporated land, all of which land is owned by the person signing the petition (a copy of which is located in the files of the City Clerk's Office and to which reference is made); said owner having, by said petition formally requested the Council of the City of Thomasville to have said land annexed to and become incorporated within the City of Thomasville in accordance with said petition, and the limit of the City of Thomasville are hereby extended to include the following tract of land:

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of land situated, lying and being in Thomas County, Georgia known as Land Lot 83 of the 13th Land District and being that 0.770-acre tract, more or less, shown and delineated as Parcel No. 1 on that plat of survey for William L. Clark and Andrew B. Clark, III dated June 10, 2002, prepared by Frank E. Carlton, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 1544 and being recorded in Plat Cabinet 4, Page 4-B, in the Deed Records of Thomas County, Georgia.

# SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of this ordinance, properly certified, together with a copy of the plat of survey of the property to be annexed, be filed by the Clerk of Council of the City of Thomasville with the Department of Community Affairs of the State of Georgia, as provided by the laws of the State of Georgia.

# **SECTION III**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Code of the City of Thomasville is amended by excluding a certain tract from Thomas County and to AND TO DESIGNATE THE SAID SAME

TRACT AS <u>Parcel 66</u>, of <u>Section 22-91 captioned "C-2 CU Commercial Conditional Use (29</u>. Building Contractor and <u>Related Activities</u>)"

# SECTION IV

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, this ordinance shall be effective on the date of its final reading and passage.

#### SECTION V

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED all ordinances or part of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

### SECTION VI

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED and it is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Thomasville that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrase of the Ordinance are and were, upon their enactment, believed by the Mayor and the Council to be fully valid, enforceable, and constitutional.

# SECTION VII

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED and it is hereby declared by the Mayor and Council of the City of the Thomasville that (i) to the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase and (ii) that to the greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

### **SECTION VIII**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED and it is hereby declared that in the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgement or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Thomasville that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or section of the Ordinance and that to the greatest extend allowed by law, all remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or section of this ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

# SECTION IX

This ordinance shall not be made a part of the official codified ordinances of the City of Thomasville but shall nevertheless be spread upon the public minutes and records of the City of Thomasville.

# SECTION X

This ordinance was introduced and read at a lawful meeting of the City Council for the City of Thomasville, Georgia, held on August 28, 2023, and read the second time, passed and adopted in like meeting held on September 11, 2023.

2. Second reading of an ordinance to rezone 16107 U.S Highway 19 North, Thomasville, Georgia from C-2, Commercial to C-2 CU, Commercial Use (29. Building contractor and related activities.).

Councilmember Chastain motioned to order the ordinance to rezone 16107U.S. Highway 19 North, as read for the second time, passed, and adopted, 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.

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

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, OF 1971, AS AMENDED WHICH IS SET FORTH IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE AS CHAPTER 22, CAPTIONED "ZONING", BY EXCLUDING A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND FROM PARCEL 35 OF SECTION 22-91 CAPTIONED "C-2, COMMERCIAL", TO DESCRIBE SAID EXCLUDED TRACT AND TO DESIGNATE THE SAID SAME TRACT AS PARCEL 65 OF SECTION 22-91 CAPTIONED "C-2, COMMERCIAL CONDITIONAL USE (29. BUILDING CONTRACTOR AND RELATED ACTIVITIES)". TO ESTABLISH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

# SECTION I

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that the Code of the City of Thomasville is amended by excluding a certain Parcel 35 from Section 22-91 captioned "C-2, Commercial" and to designate the said same tract as Parcel 65 of Section 22-91 captioned "C-2 CU, Commercial Use (29. Building contractor and related activities)

and more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 83 of the 13<sup>th</sup> Land District of Thomas County, Georgia and being that tract of land being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the iron pin located at the northeast corner of Parcel No. 1 as shown on that plat of survey for William L. Clark and Andrew B. Clark, III dated June 10, 2002, Prepared by Frank E. Carlton, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 1544 and being recoded in Plat Cabinet 4, Page 4-B, in the Deed Records of Thomas County, Georgia, and located on the right-of-way of U.W. Highway 19 North and run thence north 28degrees 32 minutes 00 seconds west, along the western right-of-way of U.W. Highway 19 a distance of 200 feet to a point, run thence in a southwesterly direction a distance of 200 feet to an iron pin set at the northwestern corner of said Parcel No. 1; run thence south 00 degrees 07 minutes 48 seconds east a distance of 200 feet to an iron pin set; run thence north 60 degrees 12 minutes 20 seconds east a distance of 200 feet to the iron pine set on the western rightof-way of U.S. Highway 19 and the Point of Beginning of the tract herein described.

#### **SECTION II**

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

# SECTION III

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED all ordinances or part of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

# SECTION IV

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED and it is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Thomasville that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrase of the Ordinance are and were, upon their enactment, believed by the Mayor and the Council to be fully valid, enforceable, and constitutional.

#### SECTION V

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED and it is hereby declared by the Mayor and Council of the City of the Thomasville that (i) to the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase and (ii) that to the greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

#### SECTION VI

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED and it is hereby declared that in the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgement or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Thomasville that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or section of the Ordinance and that to the greatest extend allowed by law, all remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or section of this ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

#### SECTION VII

This ordinance shall not be made a part of the official codified ordinances of the City of Thomasville but shall nevertheless be spread upon the public minutes and records of the City of Thomasville.

# SECTION VIII

This ordinance was introduced and read at a lawful meeting of the City Council for the City of Thomasville, Georgia, held on August 28, 2023, and read the second time, passed and adopted in like meeting held on September 11, 2023.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

First readings of four separate acquisition ordinances related to Old Albany Road Project.

City Attorney, Tim Sanders, reported there had been no changes to any of the four separate ordinances since their passage on first reading.

1. Parcel 23: First reading of an ordinance to authorize acquisition of a temporary construction easement of approximately 160.48 square feet located on Cassidy Road from Ethan Jackson Investments, LLC in exchange for consideration of \$500.00.

Councilmember Scott motioned to order the ordinance to authorize acquisition of a temporary construction easement of approximately 160.48 square feet located at 503 Old Albany Road, 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 ordinance title read for the first time, passed and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 160.48 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT CASSIDY ROAD (TAX ID#014 003001) 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 27: First reading of an ordinance to authorize acquisition of a permanent utility easement of approximately 1,316.66 square feet located at 503 Old Albany Road from John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Inc. in exchange for consideration of \$1,317.00.

Councilmember Chastain motioned to order the ordinance to authorize acquisition of a permanent utility easement of approximately 1,316.66 square feet located at 503 Old Albany Road, 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 ordinance title read for the first time, passed and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT GENERAL UTILITITES EASEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 1,316.66 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT 503 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.

3. Parcel 32: First reading of an ordinance to authorize the acquisition of a permanent general utilities easement of approximately 1,289.90 square feet located at 753 Old Albany Road FROM Shirley Sampson (Forte) in exchange for consideration of \$500.00.

Councilmember Scott motioned to order the ordinance to authorize the acquisition of a permanent general utilities easement of approximately 1,289.90 square feet located at 753 Old Albany Road, 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 ordinance title read for the first time, passed and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT GENERAL UTILITITES EASEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 1,289.90 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT 753 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.

4. Parcel 35: First reading of an ordinance to authorize acquisition of a permanent general utilities easement of approximately 451.83 square feet located on 106 Cannon Street from Darlene Mathis Crosby and Cole Blackman in exchange for consideration of \$500.00.

Councilmember Warren motioned to order the ordinance to authorize acquisition of a permanent general utilities easement of approximately 451.83 square feet located on 106 Cannon Street, 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 ordinance title read for the first time, passed and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT GENERAL UTILITITES EASEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 451.83 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT 106 CANNON STREET 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.

City of Thomasville 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate.

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel, reported the City council has the authority to levy ad valorem tax on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of the city that is subject to such taxation by the state and county. This tax is for the purpose of raising revenues to defray the costs of operating the city government, of providing governmental services, for the repayment of principal and interest on general obligations, and for any other public purpose as determined by the City Council in its discretion. Ad valorem tax is required to be set by ordinance. The City of Thomasville has not levied an ad valorem, or property tax, since 2012. The City of Thomasville budgeted zero ad valorem taxes for 2023; therefore, the City of Thomasville millage rate will remain at 0 mills for 2023. Due to the time required to prepare the 2023 ad valorem tax bills, there exists an emergency status of need requiring the adoption of an ordinance to set the 2023 City of Thomasville Ad Valorem millage rate on first and second readings at this one meeting.

1. Approval of a Resolution of Emergency for the adoption of an ordinance on first and second readings at this one meeting.

Councilmember Warren motioned to adopt the Resolution of Emergency, 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 adopted resolution follows.

# RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that due to the time required to prepare the 2023 ad valorem tax bills, there exists an emergency status of need requiring the adoption of an ordinance to set the 2023 City of Thomasville Ad Valorem Millage Rate on first and second readings at this one meeting.

SO DONE, this the 11th day of September 2023.

2. First and second readings, under resolution of emergency, of an ordinance to set the City of Thomasville 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Millage.

Councilmember Chastain motioned to order the ordinance to set the City of Thomasville 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Millage rate, under Resolution of Emergency, as read for the first and second times at this one meeting, 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.

The ordinance read for the first and second times, under Resolution of Emergency, at this one meeting follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CITY ADVALOREM PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR 2023, AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE LAW BASED ON THE EVALUATION, BY THE BOARD OF SUCH TAX ASSESSORS OF THOMAS COUNTY FOR 2023 COUNTY TAX PURPOSES, OF EACH SUCH TAXABLE ITEM WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; TO SET THE TAX RATE FOR 2023 TO BE LEVIED UPON ALL SAID PROPERTY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville by the authority vested in them by the charter, charter amendments, and ordinances of said City, and in conformity with State law, that the City ad valorem property tax assessments for 2023 are hereby established based on the evaluation, by the Board of Tax Assessors of Thomas County for 2023 County tax purposes, of each such taxable item within the corporate limits of said City, such assessments totaling \$887,958,951 exclusive of assessments on motor vehicles which have already been taxed, by operation of State Law of 1985.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that upon all of said assessment as hereby established, and compiled into the 2023 Tax Digest together with the assessments established by the State Revenue Commissioner upon properties of public utilities, there be, and hereby is, set and levied a tax rate of:

00.00 mills for General Government.

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

This ordinance was read the first and second times in lawful meeting of the Council of the City of Thomasville held this the 11th day of September, 2023, in accordance with resolution adopted previously declaring an emergency requiring first and second readings at this one meeting, passed and adopted after proper vote.

# Thomasville School Board of Education 2023 School Tax Millage Rate.

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel, reported as stated in Section 11.2 of the Charter as the levying authority, the City Council levies the millage rate recommended by the Thomasville Board of Education. The board of education shall determine, as early as practicable in each year what amount of money will be necessary to raise by taxation to defray the expenses of the public schools for the ensuing year and shall lay the same before the city council for the city. The city council for the city is hereby authorized, and shall be required, to levy a tax annually in addition to that now authorized by the law on all the taxable property of the city, not to exceed two (2) percent on the same. When collected, the collecting officers of the city shall pay the same over to the treasurer of the board of education, to be disbursed for the maintenance of the public schools and be paid out under order of the board under such regulations as they may prescribe. Such taxes shall be collected by levy and sale as other taxes of the city are collected. The City School Board has met and adopted the 2023 school tax millage rate of 16.414 mills. This will remain the same as the millage rate from 2022. The net 2023 digest for school purposes is \$887,958,951 which means that each mill of tax will produce approximately \$887,959.00. This represents around a 15.02 % increase in the mill value. Staff completed the roll back rate calculation for the City Schools. This calculation was determined to be 14.553. The City School Board has advertised and recommended the school tax to be an increased rate at 16.414. As the levying authority, the City of Thomasville is responsible for levying and collecting the tax on the City schools' behalf. Due to the time required to prepare the 2023 tax bills, there exists an emergency status of need requiring the adoption of an ordinance to set the 2023 School Tax Millage Rate on first and second readings at this one meeting.

1. Approval of a Resolution of Emergency for the adoption of an ordinance on first and second readings at this one meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to adopt the Resolution of Emergency, 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 resolution follows.

#### RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that due to the time required to prepare the 2023 ad valorem tax bills, there exists an emergency status of need requiring the adoption of an ordinance to set the 2023 City School Tax Millage Rate on first and second readings at this one meeting.

SO DONE, this the 11th day of September 2023.

2. First and second readings, under resolution of emergency, of ordinance to set the Thomasville School Board of Education 2023 School Tax Millage Rate.

Councilmember Scott motioned to order the ordinance to set the Thomasville School Board of Education 2023 School Tax Millage Rate, under Resolution of Emergency, as read for the first and second times at this one meeting, 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 ordinance read for the first and second times, under Resolution of Emergency, at this one meeting follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CITY AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR CITY SCHOOL TAX FOR 2023, AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE LAW BASED ON THE EVALUATION, BY THE BOARD OF SUCH TAX ASSESSORS OF THOMAS COUNTY FOR 2023 COUNTY TAX PURPOSES, OF EACH SUCH TAXABLE ITEM WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; TO SET THE CITY SCHOOL TAX RATE FOR 2023 TO BE LEVIED UPON ALL SAID PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE FOR DISCOUNTS TO BE ALLOWED ON PAYMENT OF 2023 TAXES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Thomasville by the authority vested in them by the charter, charter amendments, and ordinances of said City, and in conformity with State law, that the City ad valorem property tax assessments for 2023 are hereby established based on the evaluation, by the Board of Tax Assessors of Thomas County for 2023 County tax purposes, of each such taxable item within the corporate limits of said City, such assessments totaling \$887,958,951.00 exclusive of assessments on motor vehicles which have already been taxed, by operation of State Law of 1985.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that upon all of said assessment as hereby established, and compiled into the 2023 Tax Digest together with the assessments established by the State Revenue Commissioner upon properties of public utilities, there be, and hereby is, set and levied a tax rate of 16.414 mills comprised of the following levies to meet the requirements for each purpose as listed:

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the following discounts be allowed on payments of 2023 taxes:

If paid on or before November 15, 2023 ......3 percent

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that as to any irregularity or error which occurs with regard to payment by the taxpayer and which is not the result of fault or oversight by the taxpayer and which occurs because of fault, oversight, time constraints or other action or inaction on the part of the administrative staff of the City of Thomasville, the City Manager shall have the authority, in his sole discretion, to allow the benefit of early payment, to waive any penalty for late payment which would otherwise be imposed, or take any other such action which he deems prudent and appropriate in the circumstances.

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

This ordinance was read the first and second times in lawful meeting of the Council of the City of Thomasville held this, the 11th day of September, 2023, in accordance with resolution adopted previously declaring an emergency requiring first and second readings at this one meeting, passed and adopted after proper vote.

First readings of two separate ordinances to authorize demolition of unfit structures in Thomasville, Georgia. Executive Director of Inspections & Engineering, Mark Harmon.

1. First reading of an ordinance to authorize demolition of an unfit structure located at 513 Alexander

Director Harmon reported this home was destroyed in a fire in January of 2021. The required appraisals were completed to confirm that it meets the threshold for demolition. Notices of Unfit structure status along with a scheduled hearing date were sent March 22, 2023, to known interested parties and posted at the site. The Unfit structure case was brought before the City Manager in an advertised hearing on June 6, 2023, where an order was lawfully issued to demolish this structure within 60 days. This order was recorded (Lis Pendens), mailed to all parties identified, posted on site, and printed in the required intervals in the legal section of the Times Enterprise per the requirement by COT ordinances and Georgia Law. According to the Tax Assessor's office, the dwelling was constructed in 1945. Director Harmon reviewed photographs of the devastation of the fire to this structure and what little remains of the structure. To date, we have seen no on-site effort by the owner(s) to remove the remains of the structure. They have discussed securing a permit and full demolition, but to date have not moved forward.

Councilmember Scott motioned to order the ordinance to authorize demolition of unfit structure at 513 Alexander Street, 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 ordinance title read for the second time, passed and adopted follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 513 ALEXANDER STREET, THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; OWNED BY PETER MCINTYRE SR AND PETER MCINTYRE JR.; TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS

# ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

2. First reading of an ordinance to authorize demolition of an unfit structure located at 1006 Lester Street

Director Harmon reported this structure partially collapsed in June of 2022. The owner was notified of the partial collapse and asked to address this issue but failed to address the matter fully. The required appraisals were completed to confirm that it meets the threshold for demolition. Notices of Unfit structure status along with a scheduled hearing date were sent March 22, 2023, to known interested parties and posted at the site. The Unfit structure case was brought before the City Manager in an advertised hearing on June 6, 2023, where an order was lawfully issued to demolish this structure within 60 days. This order was recorded (Lis Pendens), mailed to all parties identified, posted on site, and printed in the required intervals in the legal section of the Times Enterprise per the requirement by COT ordinances and Georgia Law. According to the Tax Assessor's office, the dwelling the original constructed was 1874. You can see from the photographs that the collapsed structure and some of the limited debris removal that has occurred. Approximately 10% of the structure remains along with assorted other trash, junk, and the foundation.

Mayor Pro tem Mobley motioned to order the ordinance to authorize demolition of unfit structure at 1006 Lester Street, 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 ordinance title read for the second time, passed and adopted follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 1006 LESTER STREET, THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; OWNED BY ANTONIO L. SMITH: TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

# Resolutions to authorize two separate grant applications for the Remington Avenue Project.

Grants Administrator Pam Schalk reported The City's Planning Department created an advisory committee for the Remington Avenue Project to even more directly involve the community to identifying concerns, gathering input, and answering questions, and garner more local support for this streetscape project. The Planning Department Staff led a three-day Community Engagement event in early June 2019 where the community and staff walked several segments of the street to witness issues firsthand and assess desire lines and pedestrian access at multiple points along the street. The Remington Avenue project will provide connectivity from the west-side of our community to economic hubs that provide jobs, health care, food, and recreation. It will also help reduce the high incidents of traffic accidents, particularly at the intersection of Remington and E Pinetree Boulevard.

1. Resolution to authorize the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program.

Grants Administrator Schalk reported the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant is a federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). This grant provides funding for two programs: the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program and the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program, referred to jointly as the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program. Funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 RCN Program will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that advance community-centered connection transportation projects, with a priority for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, by improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, health care, food, nature, and recreation; fostering equitable development and restoration. Bids for the Remington Avenue project were over the budget estimates due to recent inflation. Grant funding is being sought to help cover these costs. Funding is being sought for the improvements: the RCN grant is one of several that staff is

researching. The application will request \$9.3 million for stormwater and roadway construction. It is requested that the Council take appropriate action to authorize the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tempore to sign all necessary documents related to the 2023 USDOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant application.

Mayor Pro Tem Mobley motioned to adopt the resolution 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 resolution follows.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to provide increased access to economic hubs for underserved residents in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires that Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant application be submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the commitment of fifty percent in matching funds toward this application with the understanding that the funds are reimbursable; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tempore to sign all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary for relation to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submittal of the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant application and the required supporting documentation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the provision of commitment of funds as required in the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the Mayor of the City of Thomasville, or Mayor Pro Tempore, as the signatory on all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary for relation to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant application.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

2. Resolution to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission State Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant Program.

Grants Administrator Schalk reported the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) is a federal-state partnership authorized by Congress in the 2008 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act ("the Farm Bill") to promote and encourage economic development in parts of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina,

South Carolina, Virginia and all of Florida. SCRC invests in projects that support basic infrastructure, business development, natural resource preservation and workforce development. SCRC is committed to supporting job creation, building communities and improving the lives of those who reside in the 428 counties of the seven-state region. SCRC investments are directed by the authorizing statute and the Five-Year Strategic Plan, demonstrating SCRC's commitment to advancing local economies, infrastructure, business expansion, job creation and job retention. Six goals from the Five-Year Strategic Plan guide SEID funding that support programs and/or projects in the region:

- 1) Invest in Critical Infrastructure
- 2) Improve Health and Support Services Access and Outcomes
- 3) Strengthen Workforce Capacity
- 4) Foster Entrepreneurial and Business Development Activities
- 5) Expand Affordable Housing Stock and Access
- 6) Promote Environmental, Conservation, Preservation, and Access

Bids for the Remington Avenue project were over the budget estimates due to recent inflation. Grant funding is being sought to help cover these costs. Funding is being sought for the improvements: the SEID grant is one of several that staff is researching. The application will request \$500,000 (maximum award) for stormwater and roadway construction.

Councilmember Scott motioned to adopt the resolution 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 adopted resolution follows.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to provide increased access to economic hubs for underserved residents in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires that a State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant application be submitted to the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the commitment of fifty percent in matching funds toward this application with the understanding that the funds are reimbursable; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tempore to sign all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary for relation to the State Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submittal of the State Economic and Infrastructure Development grant application and the required supporting documentation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the provision of commitment of funds as required in the State Economic and Infrastructure Development 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 Mayor Pro Tempore, as the signatory on all necessary and related documents

as shall be necessary for relation to the State Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant application.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

Resolution to appoint Bill Edwards to fill unexpired term on the Downtown Development Authority Board.

Managing Director of Marketing & Communications, April Norton, reported that on February 10, 2020, the City of Thomasville City Council adopted a resolution to appoint Ray Thompson to serve on the Downtown Development Authority Board as an Owner or Operator of a Business within the Downtown Development Area or Taxpayer residing in the City of Thomasville for a term expiring December 31, 2023. Ray Thompson formally resigned his appointed position, due to a move of his residence, thereby creating an unexpired and vacant position on the Downtown Development Authority Board. The Downtown Development Authority Board has provided a recommendation of Bill Edwards to be appointed to fill the unexpired term as an Owner or Operator of a Business within the Downtown Development Area or Taxpayer residing in the City of Thomasville on the Downtown Development Authority Board, for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2023. In an effort to fill the unexpired term on the Downtown Development Authority Board, staff and the DDA recommend the appointment of Bill Edwards to fulfill the unexpired term for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2023 to City Council for approval.

Councilmember Scott motioned to adopt the resolution 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 adopted resolution follows.

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE

WHEREAS, the City Council is vested with the authority to appoint persons to various boards, commissions, and authorities and the City Council desires to exercise such authority; and,

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2020, a regular meeting, duly publicized and open to the public, a quorum of the City Council of the City of Thomasville adopted a resolution which included the appointment of Ray Thompson to serve on the Downtown Development Authority Board as an Owner or Operator of a Business within the Downtown Development Area or Taxpayer residing in the City of Thomasville for a term expiring December 31, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Ray Thompson formally resigned his appointed position on the Downtown Development Authority Board, thereby creating an unexpired and vacant position on the Downtown Development Authority Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that Bill Edwards is hereby appointed to fill the aforementioned unexpired term as an Owner or Operator of a Business within the Downtown Development Area or Taxpayer residing in the City of Thomasville on the Downtown Development Authority Board, for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

# Motion to authorize the Mayor's signature to execute lease agreement for 235 West Jackson Street.

City Manager, J. Alan Carson reported this item was reviewed by Council at Workshop on September 6th and also discussed at the Council Retreat in August; at which time there no indication of concerns to not move forward. City Manager Carson addressed questions and statements raised by public comment and Council concerns. He indicated each entity that is located within the Municipal Building pays a rent expense, a portion of which is from Hotel-Motel Tax. City Manager Carson stated he wanted to assure the citizens of Thomasville that there is nothing that staff and Leadership does on a whim or quickly; everything is thought out, planned out and moved forward in a progressive manner. City Manager Carson noted that when a study was completed relating to what it would take to renovate the Municipal Building, one of the first things that must be done is to mitigate the air quality in the building. To begin that process, the building must be vacated. Leadership began seeking available properties and discussions were started with the owner of 235 West Jackson Street. The owner is having a difficult time filling the vacant building because of its size of 7,700 square feet; and the owner is not interested in subdividing at this time. The plan is to move the departments located in the Municipal Building (Main Street, marketing, Downtown Police, CNS) and relocate them to 235 West Jackson Street; which would bring additional visitors to that area and it is closer to the Amphitheatre. City Manager Carson further noted that with upcoming events and holidays, the move would not take place until the first part of next year. In response to the initial estimated renovation cost for the new location, it was noted and explained the amounts of \$30,000 or \$40,000 were too high; this was realized after staff was able to walk through the building and better assess the location. City Manager Carson noted that until very early in this day, he was unaware of any issues, concerns or that Council was not in agreement with moving forward on this item.

Councilmember Warren motioned to approve the lease agreement and to authorize the Mayor's signature to execute the agreement. Mayor Flowers seconded. Discussion ensued. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley, Councilmember Scott and Councilmember Chastain expressed concerns with moving forward with this item. Councilmember Warren noted that Councilmembers were given ample time to make their concerns known to other Councilmembers and discuss with Mr. Carson between the initial discussion at the Retreat in August and the most recent Workshop. She also noted that Councilmembers value community input; however, it is imperative that they are able to make independent and hard decisions necessary to move the City forward and be progressive.

Councilmember Warren modified her motion to table this item for further discussion. Mayor Flowers seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Flowers, Mobley, Warren, Scott and Chastain.

# Bids and award for the purchase of one Tee Mower for Country Oaks Golf Course

Manager-Parks, Recreation & Golf Course, Mike Owens, reported the City of Thomasville owns all of the equipment used to maintain the municipal golf Country Oaks. In an effort to effectively maintain the equipment and reduce maintenance costs, Country Oaks utilizes an aggressive PM plan and a schedule to replace older equipment before annual maintenance costs skyrocket. It was noted that the current tee mower being replaced is a 2013 model with 2,670 hours. It was requested Council approval to proceed with the purchase of a John Deere 2400 Precision Cut Triplex Tee Mower for the amount of \$42,519.76 from Beard Equipment Company – using budgeted 2023 Capital Funds. A summary of bids received follows.

> **BIDDER** BID AMOUNT Beard Equipment Company - Murfreesboro, TN \$42,519.76

John Deere 2400 Precision Cut Triplex Tee Mower

Revels Turf & Tractor - Fuquay-Varina, NC \$48,611.84

John Deere 2400 Precision Cut Triplex Tee Mower

Councilmember Warren motioned to award the bid for the purchase of one Tee Mower for Country Oaks Golf Course to Beard Equipment Company of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 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.

# **REPORTS**

Councilmember Warren reported she would be attending the Prayer Meeting held at Providence Missionary Baptist Church, following the Council meeting, and encouraged the community to attend.

Mayor Flowers asked the community to remember Mrs. Dot Campbell, and the Campbell family, in their prayers following the passing of former Mayor Roy Campbell. Mayor Flowers also commend all the First Responders and those in the community who participated in the 9-11Memorial Stair Climb held at the Thomas County Schools Stadium earlier on this day.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business for consideration, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Mayor Pro Tem, Todd E. Mobles

ATTEST: City Clerk