

## City of Thomasville Council Meeting, February 26, 2024

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in regular session on the above date. Mayor Todd Mobley presided, and the following Councilmembers were present: Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott and Councilmembers Scott Chastain, Royal O. Baker, III, and Lucinda Brown. Also present were the City Manager, J. Alan Carson; Assistant City Managers, Sheryl Sealy and Chris White; City Attorney, Timothy C. 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 unable to attend the meeting via the City of Thomasville's online live stream feed located at [www.thomasville.org](http://www.thomasville.org).

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Todd Mobley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### **INVOCATION**

Councilmember Lucinda Brown gave the Invocation.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Brown moved to approve the Regular Minutes of February 12, 2024, approved as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0. With the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker and Brown.

### **RECOGNITION**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott recognized Honorary Councilmember Hardy Clayton. Mayor Pro Tem Scott presented Mr. Clayton with a commemorative plaque for his service as the Honorary Councilmember of February 2022. Mr. Clayton thanked the City Council for the opportunity to serve.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Mobley acknowledged the following citizen as listed on the Citizens to be Heard Sign-In Form:

1. Keith Thomas, resident of Woods Gate Lane, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns regarding the retirement announcement of City Manager Carson. Mr. Thomas noted that Mr. Carson had served the City of Thomasville well as its Manager and got the City moving in the right direction. He wished Mr. Carson the best of luck in his future endeavors.
2. Jennifer Dyson, property owner of 500 West Calhoun Street, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns about not receiving any communication regarding a meeting with Councilmembers in relation to her property at 500 West Calhoun Street. Councilmember Brown requested to know who she was supposed to meet with. Ms. Dyson replied it was her understanding that the meeting was to include herself, Councilmember Baker and one other Councilmember.
3. Heather Abbott, resident of Remington Avenue, Thomasville, Georgia, welcomed new Councilmembers and noted she was looking forward to Councilmembers' leadership and vision. Mrs. Abbott publicly thanked staff members who assisted with the different processes involved in the navigation of processes involved in her development projects in downtown Thomasville.

### **ADOPT AGENDA**

Mayor Mobley requested to amend the agenda to add the following two new items for consideration:

1. Consider a motion to name Assistant City Manager, Chris White, as the Interim City Manager effective 12:01 AM March 1, 2024.
2. Consider a resolution to appoint Interim City Manager to the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority (SGGSA) Board of Directors to fill an unexpired term ending January 15, 2025.

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business for Council to consider at this meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution to authorize acceptance of monetary contributions to the Thomasville Police Department.**

Police Chief, Wade Glover, reported the Thomasville Police Department received donations from community members from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023 in support of the activities for the officers and for “Shop With A Cop (Wander with a First Responder)” event. To ensure transparency, these monetary contributions are brought before the Council for approval for their intended purposes. Chief Glover reviewed the donations as listed on Exhibit A.

Councilmember Brown moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Thomasville Police Department receives monetary gifts from generous citizens and organizations from time to time to support activities for the Officers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Thomasville Police Department receives monetary gifts from generous organizations from time to time to help fund various community projects; and

**WHEREAS**, attached to this Resolution is “Exhibit A – Contributions Report” itemizing the monetary gifts received by the Thomasville Police Department for the period of July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, in a total amount of \$12,600.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to accept monetary contributions in a transparent manner provided for at a regular meeting duly publicized and open to the public, in which a quorum of the City Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia is present.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the monetary gifts received by the Thomasville Police Department as described in the attached “Exhibit A – Contributions Report” for the period of July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, in a total amount of \$12,600.00, are hereby accepted by the City Council; to be used solely for the purposes set forth on Exhibit A.

**SO ADOPTED**, this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

“Exhibit A” follows.

**EXHIBIT A**

**CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT**

*As Received by:*  
**THOMASVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023

<b><u>CONTRIBUTOR</u></b>	<b><u>PURPOSE</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
William Howard Flowers, Jr. Foundation Shields (2023)	To support activities for the Police Department Officers	\$ 5,000.00
William Howard Flowers, Jr. Foundation Crozer (2023)	To support activities for the Police Department Officers	\$ 5,000.00
Robert Milberg	To support activities for all TPD Employees	\$ 100.00
Envision Credit Union (2023)	Shop with a Cop/Wandering W/A First Responder	\$ 1,000.00
W&L Employee Charity Fund (2023)	Shop with a Cop/Wandering W/A First Responder	\$ 1,500.00
	Total Contributions Received FY 2023	\$ 12,600.00

- End of "Exhibit A – Contributions Report" -

**Motion to approve revised One-Day Alcohol Beverage Event Permit for Leadership Georgia event held at *The Ritz Amphitheater*.**

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel reported that on February 12, 2024, Council had approved the One-Day Alcohol Beverage Event permit for Leadership Georgia event to be held at *The Ritz Amphitheater*. Following that approval, it was reported the event date on the permit required a revision. Leadership Georgia has submitted a completed and revised City of Thomasville Application for a One-Day Permit for Sale of Alcoholic Beverage by Bona Fide Charitable & Non-Profit Civic Organization (Consumption Only for Beer, Wine, and Liquor) for the Leadership Georgia event to be held at *The Ritz Amphitheater* in downtown Thomasville on March 7, 2024. City Council approval of the One-Day Alcohol permit is required as the event will be held on property owned by the City. The Thomasville Police Department found no reason not to issue the One-Day Alcohol permit.

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve the revised Alcohol One Day Event Permit for Consumption of Beer and Wine for Leadership Georgia’s event as presented. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

**ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**



1. **Consider motion to name Assistant City Manager Chris White as the Interim City Manager effective 12:01 AM March 1, 2024.**

Mayor Mobley reported City Manager Carson's recent announcement of retirement necessitated an appointment of Interim City Manager.

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve the appointment of Chris White as Interim City Manager as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Mobley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

2. **Consider resolution to appoint Interim City Manager Chris White to the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority (SGGSA) Board of Directors to fill an expired term ending January 15, 2025.**

Mayor Mobley reported that the City Manager serves on the SGGSA Board of Directors and City Manager Carson's recent announcement of retirement necessitates an appoint of Interim City Manager to fill the unexpired term.

Councilmember Brown moved to adopt the resolution to appoint Interim City Manager, Chris White, to the SGGSA Board of Directors as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Scott seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

#### **RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that pursuant to the Bylaws of the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority, City of Thomasville Interim City Manager, Chris White, is hereby appointed to serve as a City of Thomasville Member on the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of J. Alan Carson for a term ending January 15, 2025

SO DONE, this, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

#### **REPORTS**

Assistant City Manager White addressed City Manager Carson, Mayor and Council members with the following remarks:

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Carson, Alan as we call him, for coming here and being a part of our organization for over five years. He came in a really difficult time for a lot of us and honestly, we got a lot of stuff done in that period of time, even through a global pandemic. So, to look back at that history of success, you need to hold your head up high Alan, you did a lot of great things. We want to celebrate with you as you go into that new chapter of life. When Alan came here, I don't know how many knew this, but he had zero grandchildren (one on the way) and now he has four, with a fifth on the way! We hope that you and Debbie take this time and enjoy Ellery and Ashley and that time together and those grandbabies, it's time for you to be able to do that.

Additionally, I'd like to thank the City Council and Mayor for this vote of confidence and trust to serve in this capacity as the Interim City Manager. It's truly an honor and I promise you tonight I'll do so with respect, trust, integrity and accountability; it's a big role and I don't take it lightly, so thank you for that."

Mayor Mobley and Councilmembers collectively thanked City Manager Carson for his leadership and service as City Manager and wished him well in retirement.

Mayor Mobley voiced concerns of a recent event within the Thomasville community and provided the following statement:

“On Thursday evening, February 22, 2024, the Thomasville Police Department responded to several incidents that are of great concern to the Thomasville City Council. First and foremost, our condolences go out to the family of the victim that was killed in the vehicular accident. We also wish any others that were injured in the multiple events a full recovery.

However, these incidents that have occurred cannot be tolerated in our community. The Thomasville City Council fully supports the Thomasville Police Department and our local law enforcement professionals who are working to ensure the safety and security of our community. We ask for all citizens to conduct themselves in a way that follows the laws of our city so that Thomasville can continue being a place for all to live, work, play and prosper. Thank you.”

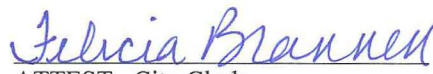
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



Mayor, Todd Mobley



ATTEST: City Clerk

