

**City of Thomasville Council Meeting, March 11, 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 Interim City Manager, Chris White; Assistant City Manager, Sheryl Sealy; 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**

Mayor Todd Mobley gave the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 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.

**RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Mayor Mobley recognized CFO Ashley Cason and reported the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Thomasville for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. Mayor Mobley recognized the outstanding efforts of Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason, and the finance department, for being recognized and receiving the award. He noted this is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.
2. Councilmember Brown recognized Natural Gas Superintendent, Chuck Whitaker, and other members of the Natural Gas Department who were present at the meeting. She presented them with a proclamation acknowledging March 18, 2024, as National Natural Gas Utility Workers’ Day. March 18<sup>th</sup> is the date of the New London, Texas school incident in 1937 that led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety. Councilmember Brown commended the employes of the Natural Gas Department for their hard work and encouraged the community to honor the natural gas utility workers by celebrating March 18<sup>th</sup> as Nation Natural Gas Utility Workers’ Day.

**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, commended the Thomasville Police Department for its efforts to engage the community in the recently conducted “mobile watch”, at which

Officers dispersed throughout the community to talk to residents and provide opportunities to voice concerns and report criminal activity anonymously. He further commended Councilmembers who were able to assist in this event, noting the action would make a difference within the community.

### **ADOPT AGENDA**

Councilmember Chastain moved to adopt the agenda 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.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to be considered by Councilmembers at this meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution to authorize acceptance of FY2022 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Project Scoping Assistance Grant.**

Grants Administrator, Pam Schalk reported that beginning in 2020 staff began the process of developing a Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) to address flooding issues that have plagued the City for many years. The engineering department along with our consulting team at GMC has gathered data on the existing conditions of each watershed within the city limits to assess current conditions. Data gathering included identification of land use in the sub-watershed, water quality monitoring, mapping of documented flooding within the city limits, documentation of significant field observations and related problem areas and public input from each sub-watershed. This next phase of the SWMP will gather the additional data needed to determine solutions for the high priority projects outlined in phase one. Project scoping activities are designed to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete applications in a timely manner that result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project for BRIC or another funding opportunity. This project will supply data for a hydraulic and hydrologic model. Models shall include existing and future conditions, and anticipated changes in rainfall intensities. This is the first step to developing an application for infrastructure improvements. The grant award is \$176,625.00 with a 25% (\$58,875) local match required over three years. Total project cost will be \$78,500.00 annually for a total project cost of \$235,500. Funding will cover the highest priority drainage study projects outlined in the Stormwater Action Plan.

Councilmember Chastain moved to adopt the resolution 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.

The adopted resolution follows.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to commit to undertake hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks from disasters and natural hazards; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to accept an FY2022 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Project Scoping grant award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to commit funding in the annual budget to provide for the provision of the matching funds as a requirement of the FY 2022 BRIC grant award; and,



WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the Mayor and his/her successor to sign all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary for relation to the FY 2022 BRIC grant award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes acceptance of the FY2022 BRIC grant award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the provision of commitment funds in the annual budget to provide the matching funds as required in the FY 2022 BRIC grant award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the Mayor, or Mayor Pro Tem, of the City of Thomasville, as the signatory on all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary for relation to the FY 2022 BRIC grant award agreement.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

**Resolution to ratify the Mayor's signature executing the Line-of-Sight Runway 4-22 Project contract.**

Executive Director of Inspections & Engineering, Mark Harmon, reported the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) informed the City of Thomasville of a line-of-sight issue on runway 4-22 more than 10 years ago. The Airport consultants at Holt Engineering, and now Passero and Associates, recognized this as a priority and began formulating plans to correct this issue as cost effectively as possible. The corrective steps for this project were to be implemented in the capital improvement plan for 2024. Director Harmon further reported that because this was a high priority safety issue, access to other funding for non-safety projects, such as the Southwest development project, was restricted from FAA and GDOT. Although the project was originally scheduled in the Airport's Capital Improvement Plan for 2024, we were informed that Federal and State funds had become available to conduct the 85-day project in 2023. Some of you may recall seeing a Council presentation to use funds slated for the SW development project transferred for the line-of-sight project in April of 2023, with plans to complete the project through the summer. The City's matching funds total was initially purported to be \$155,000. In 2022 and 2023 with rising construction costs and partially as a result of the pandemic, GDOT informed the city in early June of 2023 that they could only provide a reduced percentage of funds. Through a Tentative Allocation letter provided by GDOT June 30, 2023, the City was informed that we would be required to use two years of our BIL (Bipartisan infrastructure Law) funds of approximately \$590,000 and an increased estimated local match of \$214,387 to complete the project. In August of 2023, the Council was presented with this information along with the information on the Contractor that was the lowest qualified bid, Griffin Grading & Concrete at a contract amount of \$3,854,728.25 along with Consultant Construction services for a total project amount of \$4,070,185. Despite the Tentative allocation letter provided, all funding sources were not available to the City of Thomasville in time to begin and complete the project in 2023 ahead of the Airport's busiest season from October through February. The project was fully budgeted for FY 2024 and work is slated to begin in mid-March. Because of the multiple delays and rescheduling, the importance of concise historic data, the bid and award were presented in conjunction with the acceptance of GDOT terms, and the contractor well past the original start date under an extension agreement, the City Attorney advised it would be best to ratify the Mayor's signature on the Contract with the winning bidder.

Mayor Pro Tem moved to adopt the Resolution to ratify the Mayor's signature executing the Line-of-Sight Runway 4-22 Project contract as presented. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. It was noted the project would begin by the first part of May 2024. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it was determined that runway 4-22 at the Thomasville Reginal Airport (“Airport”) has a line-of-sight problem that is in need of correction and that there are other aspects of the runway that merit additional work, such as lighting (“Project”);

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2023, 2:00 p.m. bids were opened at the Airport in connection with the Project 22 at the Airport;

WHEREAS, Griffin Grading & Concrete, LLC (“Griffin”) was determined to be the low bidder with a base bid of \$2,933,377.81;

WHEREAS, Passero Associates, LLC, aviation consultants for the Airport prepared the contract and attendant documents for the project at a contract amount of \$3,854,728.25, which is the total of the base bid, plus bid alternate 1 and bid alternate 2 as provided for in the bid documents for the Project (“Contract”);

WHEREAS, the Contract was executed by Griffin and Mayor John H. Flowers, effective as of December 13, 2023;

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Thomasville, Georgia (“City Council”) desires to ratify the award of the Project to Griffin as the low bidder and to ratify the execution of the Contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by this reference as if set forth fully in this Section 1.

Section 2. Approval and Ratification of Bid Award. The City Council approves and ratifies the award of the bid to Griffin as the low bidder for the Project.

Section 3. Approval and Ratification of Contract. The City Council approves and ratifies the execution and delivery of the Contract by the then Mayor, John H. Flowers, on behalf of the City.

Section 4. General Authority. From and after the approval of this Resolution, the Mayor is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do all such acts and things and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to comply with the provisions of the Contract as executed and is further authorized to take any and all further actions and execute and deliver any and all other documents and certificates as may be necessary or desirable in connection with the execution and delivery of the Contract and any related documents, all of the forgoing in consultation with the City Attorney.

Section 5. Actions Approved and Confirmed. All acts and doings of the City Council, the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, the officers and employees of the City that are in conformity with the purposes and intents of this Resolution and in the furtherance of the Project and the execution, delivery, and performance of the Contract and related documents shall be, and the same hereby are, in all respects approved and confirmed.

Section 6. Severability of Invalid Provisions. If any one or more of the provisions herein contained shall be held contrary to any express provision of law or contrary to the policy of express law, though not expressly prohibited, or against public policy, or shall for any reason whatsoever be held invalid, then such provisions shall be null and void and shall be deemed separable from the remaining provisions and shall in no way affect the validity of any of the other provisions hereof or of the Contract ratified hereunder.



Section 7. Repealing Clause. All resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions herein contained are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded and repealed.

Section 8. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption. Adopted and approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

**Motion to authorize the Mayor, or Mayor Pro-Tem, to sign all interim duty payroll documents for the Interim City Manager as outlined in the City of Thomasville's Personnel Policy.**

Mayor, Todd Mobley moved to authorize the Mayor, or Mayor Pro Tem, to sign all interim duty payroll documents for the Interim City Manager as outlined in the City of Thomasville's Personnel Policy. 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.

**Motion to approve One-Day Alcohol Beverage Event Permit for Hands on Thomas County event held at The Ritz Amphitheater.**

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel reported that Hands On Thomas County has submitted a completed City of Thomasville Application for a One-Day Permit for Sale of Alcoholic Beverage by Bona Fide Charitable & Non-Profit Civic Organization (Consumption of Beer and Wine) for the *Cheers for Volunteers* event to be held at *The Ritz Amphitheater* in downtown Thomasville on April 2, 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 Brown moved to approve the Alcohol One Day Event Permit for Consumption of Beer and Wine for Hands On Thomas County's event 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.

**Motion to approve One-Day Alcohol Beverage Event Permit for Due South event held at The Ritz Amphitheater.**

Customer Service Manager, Melissa Creel reported that Thomasville Center for the Arts has submitted a completed City of Thomasville Application for a One-Day Permit for Sale of Alcoholic Beverage by Bona Fide Charitable & Non-Profit Civic Organization (Consumption of Beer, Wine and Liquor) for the *Due South* event to be held at *The Ritz Amphitheater* in downtown Thomasville on April 20, 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 Alcohol One Day Event Permit for Consumption of Beer, Wine and Liquor for Hands On Thomas County'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.

**REPORTS**

Interim City Manager White commended the City of Thomasville's Finance Team for their hard tireless efforts with the City's finances and grants administration. He also reported the City received notice of being the recipient of the Water First Designation, which will provide discounts on loans provided by Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). It was noted that GEFA will make a formal presentation in Thomasville on April 12, 2024.

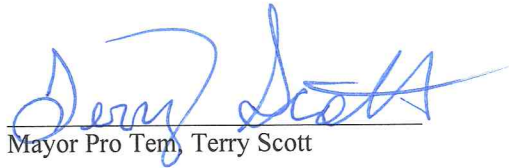
Councilmembers collectively congratulated the Finance Department and Water Department for their diligent work and efforts for the City of Thomasville.

Councilmember Chastain reported the Leadership Georgia Program hosted 200 people during their event at *The Ritz Amphitheater* recently and all were impressed with the coordination efforts of Thomasville during their time in the community. He commended those Thomasville staff members responsible for assisting with the event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business for consideration, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

  
Mayor Pro Tem, Terry Scott

  
ATTEST: City Clerk

