

## City of Thomasville Council Meeting, March 25, 2024

The Council of the City of Thomasville met in regular session on the above date. Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott presided, and the following Councilmembers were present: 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. It shall be reported that Mayor, Todd Mobley, was absent from this meeting. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 144 East Jackson Street, Thomasville, Georgia. Simultaneous access to the meeting was provided to those members of the 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 Pro Tem Terry Scott called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott gave the Invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Scott Chastain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2024, as presented. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

### PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

#### 1. Proclamation:

- i. Fair Housing Month, April 2024: Councilmember Brown reported the City of Thomasville recognizes the month of April as Fair Housing Month in celebration of the passage of the Fair Housing Act in April of 1968. Councilmember Brown presented a proclamation to Sharon Edwards, Executive Director of the Community Outreach Training Center (COTC) in recognition of Fair Housing Month and Ms. Edwards' efforts to assist the community with housing needs.

#### 2. Recognitions:

- i. Thomasville Police Department: *Life Saving Awards*: Police Chief, Wade Glover, reported that on January 5, 2024, Officers Laura Berry and Haley Groover responded to a welfare check in Thomasville. Upon arrival they found an elderly resident living in unfavorable conditions and in apparent need of assistance after having lain on the floor for several days before being discovered by a home health nurse. Emergency Medical service and Mental Health service agencies responded, however, in the absence of a medical emergency and no reason to force the resident into immediate medical care, their assistance efforts were limited. Recognizing the crisis, Officers Berry and Groover contacted the Thomas County Probate Judge who was able to order medical treatment based upon the findings and the resident was transported to the hospital where the resident received lifesaving medical care. Chief Glover further reported these officers when above and beyond the call of duty and their acts of humanity showed incredible dedication. They are described as "guardian angels in the greatest time of need" in relation to this incident. Police Chief presented Life Savings Awards to both officers and noted they would also receive the Good Samaritan Award for their selfless acts of kindness.
- ii. Georgia Association of Water Professionals: *Platinum Award - Safe Drinking Water*: Councilmember Chastain reported the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GWAP) had informed the City of Thomasville that it's Water Treatment Plant will receive a Platinum Award from GWAP for operating with perfection during 2023 and meeting, or exceeding, compliance requirements of the Safe Drinking

Water Act standards. Councilmember Chastain congratulated the City of Thomasville's Water Department Team members for their efforts in achieving this goal and earning the Platinum Award for seven consecutive years.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott acknowledged the following citizens as listed on the Citizens to be Heard Sign-In Form:

1. Nancy Tinker, Executive Director of Thomasville Landmarks, commended the swift actions of City of Thomasville staff to resolve the community's concerns with the degree of trimming of oak trees along Clay Street that was underway at the time by a contracted company. Ms. Tinker reported the trimming to the City and the trimming was ceased immediately, and the Utilities Department offered an apology for the contractor's actions. She voiced concerns that this is a common issue that she would like to avoid going forward. She noted that she would like to be a part of more formal conversations to assist with such concerns.
2. Corey King, Sr., resident of Summer Hill Road, Thomasville, Georgia, thanked the city officials and staff for their assistance with memorial plans for Mother Earlean Douglas. Mother Douglas spent her life serving God, she fed His people both spiritually and physically at The Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc. in Thomasville. King noted Mother Douglas was interred in Memphis, Tennessee; however, a memorial service will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM to celebrate her life and mission in the Thomasville area.
3. Candee Henderson, resident of Thomas County, spoke in favor of Thomasville and Thomas County transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2035. Although not present, Henderson thanked Mayor Mobley for commenting to her about an article that she had emailed to him recently. Henderson requested the Council consider transitioning the City's fleet of vehicles to electric vehicles and to provide incentives to those community members who are trying to use solar energy or other forms of renewably sourced energy.

### **ADOPT AGENDA**

Councilmember Chastain moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Public Hearing for consideration of conditions under which the suspended Alcohol License of the American Legion Post 519, Inc., may be reinstated.**

Mayor Pro Tem reported that he had previously abstained from discussion and vote relating to recent hearing and suspension of the American Legion Post 519, Inc., alcohol beverage licenses as it was his understanding that he was a member of the American Legion Post 519; however, Mayor Pro Tem Scott reported that he had since been informed by the Legion that he is not a current member and can now vote on this matter without the presence of a conflict of interest.

City Attorney, Tim Sanders reported that on November 13, 2023, the City Council suspended the alcohol licenses of the American Legion Post 519, Inc., the suspension was under Code Sections 3-31(b)(2) and 3-31(b)(5) as a trouble spot and a public nuisance. The suspension was for a period of six months and contained several requirements. The requirements were met according to the terms of the suspension. Attorney Snaders further reported that Code Section 3-31(h) outlines the process for reinstatement of a license suspended as a trouble spot or a nuisance. Reinstatement requires a public hearing and the presence of the license holder at the hearing. It was noted that no incidents have been reported at the Legion during the suspension. The Council may vote to end the suspension prior to the conclusion of the length of the suspension.

Councilmember Brown moved to approve ending the six-month suspension of the American Legion Post 519, Inc., early as a result of their having met the requirements as set forth in the sentencing. Councilmember Chastain seconded the motion. It was noted that with an affirmative vote, the suspension would be abbreviated, and the license reinstated,

effective immediately. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

City Attorney provided representatives of American Legion Post 519, Inc. with a binder containing information relating to the City of Thomasville Code of Ordinances as they relate to Alcohol Beverage Licenses and Businesses.

**Resolution to update Authorized Officials and signatures in relation to the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia Competitive Trust (MEAG MCT).**

Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason reported the authorized signatures on the MEAG Competitive Trust were listed as J. Alan Carson, City Manager, and Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason per the resolution adopted on April 8, 2019. With the recent retirement of Mr. Carson, a resolution to update the signatures was required. This resolution will authorize Chris White, Interim City Manager, and Ashley Cason, Chief Financial Officer, to communicate City of Thomasville Decisions with respect to the Trust by jointly executing written directions to MEAG Power.

Councilmember Baker moved to adopt the resolution to update the authorized officials as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

**Resolution of  
THOMASVILLE, GA**

WHEREAS, the City is a Beneficiary of the Municipal Competitive Trust (the "Trust") that MEAG Power established as of January 1, 1999; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Trust, the City is allowed to transfer certain funds between accounts and withdraw certain funds from accounts by written direction to MEAG Power and the Trustee; and

WHEREAS, by official action of the City, a City official was delegated authority to make deposits to the Trust and to communicate City decisions with respect to the Trust to MEAG Power and the Trustee; and

WHEREAS, in order to improve the notification process, MEAG Power has requested that all written directions communicating City decisions with respect to the Trust be executed by two independent City officials; and

WHEREAS, the City, after due consideration, has determined that such procedural changes are in the best interest of the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that henceforth Chris White, Interim City Manager and Ashley Cason, Chief Financial Officer (together, the "Authorized Officials") are authorized to communicate City decisions with respect to the Trust by jointly executing written directions to MEAG Power and the Trustee; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City hereby authorizes the Authorized Officials to execute, and the City Clerk to attest and deliver, certificates specifying the names, titles, term of office and specimen signatures of the Authorized Officials and other certificates and documents that MEAG Power may require from time to time to effect the purposes of the Trust and this Resolution.

This the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

**Resolution to authorize distribution of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Funds for Recreational Purposes to the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo, Georgia.**

Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason reported on November 3, 1992, the voters of Thomas County, Georgia approved a referendum for Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) in the amount of 1%. This one percent is split between the City and County for various purposes that will mutually benefit the community. A percentage of those funds are designated for the purposes of recreational activities for the City of Thomasville and for the towns of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo. In the past, the Thomas County Recreation Advisory Board has recommended the sum of \$5,000 be distributed to each of the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo in support of their recreational efforts. Appropriations for these distributions were included in the budget again this year, specifically in the 2024 Parks & Recreation's operating budget. Since distributing last year's check, the City of Thomasville did receive the following report as to what those efforts entailed.

- Barwick –Routine maintenance and community events at parks
- Meigs- New playground equipment & routine maintenance
- Boston – Routine maintenance & revitalized baseball field
- Pavo – Routine maintenance
- Ochlocknee – Routine maintenance
- Coolidge – Routine maintenance and new playground equipment

Councilmember Chastain moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, on November 3, 1992, the voters of Thomas County, Georgia, approved by referendum a Local Option Sales Tax (the "LOST"), also known as a Joint County and Municipal Sales and Use Tax, in the amount of one percent (1%); and

**WHEREAS**, from the proceeds of the LOST, certain funds are designated to be remitted to the City of Thomasville to be administered for purposes of miscellaneous recreation activities for the City of Thomasville and for the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee and Pavo; and

**WHEREAS**, from those funds, the sum of \$5,000.00 per fiscal year, as appropriated by the City Council for the City of Thomasville, may be allocated to the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee and Pavo for use in the recreation programs of these cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Thomasville – Thomas County Recreation Advisory Board has recommended that the sum of \$5,000.00 be distributed as soon as possible hereafter to each of the smaller cities referred to above, to be used by each such city for miscellaneous recreation purposes during the balance of fiscal year 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, upon review and consideration by the City Council for the City of Thomasville of the recommendation of the Thomasville-Thomas County Recreation Advisory Board as described above, the City Council deems the recommendation to be prudent and consistent with the objectives of the LOST with respect to funding miscellaneous recreation activities in Thomas County, Georgia.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council for the City of Thomasville that the recommendation of the Thomasville-Thomas County Recreation Advisory Board be, and it is hereby, accepted and adopted.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that City Manager Alan Carson and Chief Financial Officer Ashley Cason are authorized to make the distributions set out above from LOST monies remitted to the City of Thomasville and to forward those distributions to the mayors of the cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo, along with appropriate instructions on the conditions under which the funds are distributed, as soon as practicable hereafter.

**SO RESOLVED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

**Resolution to accept grant award from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for the Solid Waste Trust Fund Grant Program Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) Grant.**

Director of Solid Waste & Landfill, Jimmy Smith, Jr., reported the Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) Grant Program furthers the goals of the SWTF by providing financial support for projects that meet the requirements described in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-27.1 and O.C.G.A. § 12-8-37.1 of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act (Act), and Rule 391-3-21.17 of Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia (Rules). The Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) Grant, created as a part of the SWTF Grant Program, will reduce solid waste in Georgia, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing, and encourage innovation. The Council approved an application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program. While the application was not awarded, it scored 96 out of 105 possible points. Staff received a debrief from EPA with suggestions to improve the application which will be resubmitted for the FY2024 grant application cycle for the site and building improvements. This requested action is for the equipment only. The Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) Grant Program furthers the goals of the SWTF by providing financial support for projects that meet the requirements described in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-27.1 and O.C.G.A. § 12-8-37.1 of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act (Act), and Rule 391-3-21.17 of Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia (Rules). The Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) Grant, created as a part of the SWTF Grant Program, will reduce solid waste in Georgia, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing, and encourage innovation. The Council approved an application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program. While the application was not awarded, it scored 96 out of 105 possible points. Staff received a debrief from EPA with suggestions to improve the application which will be resubmitted for the FY2024 grant application cycle for the site and building improvements. This requested action is for the equipment only.

Councilmember Baker moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to provide waste reduction and increased recycling opportunities for our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to accept the Environmental Protection Department's (EPD) Solid Waste Trust Funds Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) grant award for the purchase of recycling equipment to assist with improving the function of the local waste management facilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Thomasville Solid Waste Department has been awarded an EPD RWD grant of three hundred and ninety thousand (\$390,000) in funding assistance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem to sign all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary in relation to the RWD grant award; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the acceptance of the EPD RWD grant award in an amount of \$390,000; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the allocation of FY 2024 Budget funds for this project; 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 Tem, as the signatory on all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary in relation to the EPD RWD grant award.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

**Motion to approve Final Plat of Lots 1-13 in Victoria Subdivision located on Victoria Place, Lester Street, and Bartow Street.**

City Planner, Kenny Thompson reported the applicant is requesting to subdivide the vacant lot located at the corners of Victoria Place, Lester Street, and Bartow Street into 13 single family parcels. The proposal meets the zoning requirements, is requesting to subdivide an area smaller than one block and is located along an existing public street; therefore, it meets the criteria for subdivision laid out in Section 17-86 of Thomasville's Code of Ordinances. Because the replat would require subdivision of more than 3 lots, it is required to go through the subdivision process outlined in Chapter 17 of the City's ordinances. This process entails verifying with the zoning administrator and city engineer that the newly platted land would create buildable lots, that the new lots would conform with the zoning requirements, and that the newly created lots would include all required utilities, easements, and access so they do not create a burden on our existing water, sewer, and stormwater systems. The request has been through the preliminary subdivision process, and the proposed revision conforms with the zoning and engineering requirements laid out in the City's subdivision regulations. Specifically:

- All lots exceed the dimensional requirements of the Victoria Place Overlay
- All easements and private covenants have been identified.
- All lots are serviced by city streets and utilities.

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve the Final Plat for the Victoria Subdivision as presented. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Scott, Chastain, Naker and Brown.

**Motion to approve Alcohol License for Retail Package of Beer and Wine for Marathon Marketplace, Rendall Mash, located at 549 West Calhoun Street, Thomasville, Georgia.**

Managing Director Customer Service, Mark Parrillo reported Rendall Mash has completed application for Alcohol License for Retail Package of Beer and Wine for Marathon Marketplace, located at 549 West Calhoun Street, 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. It was further reported that 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 Brown moved to approve the Alcohol License for Retail Package of Beer and Wine for Marathon Marketplace, Rendall Mash, as presented. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

**Motion to approve Alcohol License for Retail Package and Consumption of Beer and Wine for Relish/Pasco Farms, LLC, Edgar Roberts, located at 107 South Broad Street, Thomasville, Georgia.**

Managing Director Customer Service, Mark Parrillo reported Edgar Roberts had completed application for Alcohol License for Retail Package and Consumption of Beer and Wine for Relish/Pasco Farms, LLC, located at 107 South

Broad Street, 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. It was further reported that the owner had signed the City of Thomasville affidavit relating to the sale of alcohol to underage persons and the owner was made aware of the annual mystery shopper program.

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve the Alcohol License for Retail Package and Consumption of Beer and Wine for Relish/Pasco Farms, LLC, Edgar Roberts, as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion the motion passed 4-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

### REPORTS

Councilmember Brown reported that at recent training, she was had an opportunity to meet representatives of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) who will visit Thomasville and present the WaterFirst Designation to the City of Thomasville on April 12, 2024. It was noted this designation recognizes local governments for achieving excellence in water resources management. Communities that earn the WaterFirst designation are eligible for financial and other benefits from the state of Georgia. Being designated as a WaterFirst The designation.

### ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business for consideration, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



Mayor, Todd Mobley



ATTEST: City Clerk

