

City of Thomasville Called Council Meeting, July 29, 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 (via teleconference) and Councilmembers Scott Chastain, Royal Baker and Lucinda Brown. Also present were the 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Todd Mobley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mayor Mobley reported this meeting was called for the purpose of Council's consideration of an item tabled during the July 15, 2024, Council Meeting.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Royal Baker gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mobley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

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

1. Jeanette Dixon, resident of Cindy Drive, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns of a packs of aggressive dogs roaming neighborhoods; including hers. She provided photos from neighbors' security cameras of the dogs and of a cat which had been mauled to death. Ms. Dixon also provided an audio clip from a Ring camera system in which the dogs could be heard viciously terrorizing a cat. She voiced further concerns that there are aggressive dogs roaming throughout the City and citizens are concerned for their safety. She asked Councilmembers to help get the activity under control by amending ordinances and stricter, enforceable laws, before children are mauled to death as well. Ms. Dixon reported she understood that per the Service Delivery Strategy, Thomas County Government is responsible for animal control county-wide; however, their program has not been effective since their split from the Humane Society. She encouraged Councilmembers to investigate ways to make animal control work better for the residents. Ms. Dixon offered to help in any way shoe could and could also provide sample ordinances from other communities.
2. Ryan Jorge, resident of Ridgecrest Drive, Thomasville, Georgia, also voiced concerns relating to the lack of animal control services within the City limits. He reported being told by Sherriff's Department to shoot the dogs that come into his yard. He noted that this is not only the wrong way to address the issue, but also illegal to discharge a firearm within the city limits; and stated that doing so could have deadly repercussions should the bullet strike a person. He also reported of cats being mauled to death by aggressive dog packs roaming the city. Mr. Jorge inquired if there was a way the City could separate from the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement with the County and form their own Animal Control Services, or if there was anything else that could provide citizens a safe solution to the aggressive dog activity.

A brief discussion ensued regarding additional reports received by Councilmembers relating to packs of aggressive dogs within the community. Mayor Mobley requested that a letter of concern be drafted to Thomas County regarding the concerns of the animal control services and that staff also speak to the Chief of Police for potential actions to address this issue.

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember Chastain moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilmember Brown 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

Resolution to ratify bid and award for the purchase of sidewalk and ramp construction project for pedestrian access adjacent to Subway in Downtown Thomasville.

Executive Director of Inspections and Engineering, Mark Harmon reviewed a PowerPoint presentation detailing the sidewalk and ramp construction project for pedestrian access adjacent to Subway and Knapp Hardware in Downtown Thomasville. He noted that the existing access and ramp has been in a deteriorating condition for quite some time and is past the point of repair. He further noted that if the replacement construction is not completed soon, the potential of pedestrian accident and the damage to the footers of the Knapp Hardware building is great. Executive Director Harmon reviewed new images and construction plans in detail, providing Councilmembers a better visual description of the area where the construction will take place. It was also noted that the existing access is not currently ADA compliant. Discussion ensued regarding the location of the access, the ramp grade, stormwater provisions, and footing assessment. It was further noted that should the existing retaining wall crumble and fall, an emergency repair would be necessary to ensure Knapp Hardware’s footing does not erode or shift. Mayor Pro Tem Scott and Councilmember Baker spoke in opposition of this project and voiced concerns that there were areas in the underserved communities that have been in need of updating for many years.

Councilmember Chastain moved to adopt the Resolution to Ratify the bid and award of project to D.R. Dunn Construction, as presented. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 3-2, with the following votes recorded:

- AYES: Mobley, Chastain and Baker.
- NAYS: Scott and Brown.

The adopted resolution follows.

REPORTS

Assistant City Manager Sealy reported that in preparation for Council’s upcoming Strategic Planning Session, Emily Davenport, with the Georgia Municipal Association, would be contacting each Councilmember individually for interviews.

Councilmembers thanked citizens for coming to speak about animal service concerns. It was noted they would review existing ordinances for potential changes that may help to address the aggressive dog concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no additional business for consideration, the Called City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



Mayor, Todd Mobley



ATTEST: City Clerk



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