

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, May 13, 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 Baker, 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.

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 Scott Chastain moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024, 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.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Mental Health Awareness Month: Councilmember Royal Baker recognized the Vashti Center, Alisha Williams; and, Georgia Pines, Jamekah Brooks and Michael Lane. Councilmember Baker presented a proclamation acknowledging the efforts of both organizations to provide mental health services to Thomasville community and proclaiming May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month.
2. National Police Week: Mayor Mobley recognized Thomasville Police Chief, Wade Glover; Assistant Police Chief, Eric Hampton; and the Thomasville Police Department. Mayor Mobley presented a proclamation recognizing the sacrifices that the members of Thomasville Police Department make to safeguard the community and proclaimed May 12-18, 2024, as National Police Week.
3. National Public Works Week: Mayor Pro Tem Scott recognized the Thomasville Public Works Department and presented a proclamation to Public Works Director, Stephen Stewart; and Urban Landscape Manager, Brian Allensworth, proclaiming May 19-25, 2024, as National Public Works Week.

RECOGNITIONS

1. 103rd Rose Show & Festival Recognitions: Mayor Mobley recognized City of Thomasville staff responsible for the coordination of the 103rd Rose Show & Festival. He noted that the City has heard from locals and merchants that the 103rd Rose Show and Festival was the best and largest experienced in years, maybe ever! Mayor Mobley further noted that while the City was awaiting the true economic impact of this year's event, it was anticipated the city welcomed over 40,000 people in attendance over two days, bringing in a \$4.3 MILLION DOLLAR direct impact. Main Street Director, Brandy Avery, took the lead in the coordination of the many moving parts for the event this year. This event also owes its success to the dedicated efforts of City of Thomasville employees, who invest countless hours into its planning and execution. Every department collaborated together to ensure the success of the event. Mayor Mobley thanked Mrs. Avery, the staff, and volunteers for a wonderful event. Councilmember Brown extended a special thank you to Mrs.

Vicky Bryson, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, for helping her to navigate through her first Rose Show & Festival as a Councilmember.

2. Adopt-A-Stream Program Certificates: Councilmember Chastain reported that the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program's mission is to monitor and improve Georgia's streams, wetlands, lakes, and estuaries from the mountains to the coast. On April 11th, 18 of the City of Thomasville staff members completed the testing requirements to become volunteers and join this program. Our volunteers will conduct site testing at eight registered sites within Thomasville and record the results in the state's database. This data will be utilized to monitor water quality within the City of Thomasville. The following listed City of Thomasville Employees were present and were recognized as having completed the Adopt-A-Stream Program Training and were awarded certificates:

Ray Herndon	Jay West	Mark Harmon	Stephen Stewart
Ben Willis	Gigi Payne	Matthew Leach	Willy Still
Rufus Harper			

Councilmember Chastain commended the staff for their efforts and dedication.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

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

1. Belle McGalliard, resident of Swan Street, Thomasville, Georgia, acknowledged she had voiced concerns at the last Council meeting regarding the changes to CNSNext. She reported that the staff has since provided exceptional service in working with her to better understand the new system. McGalliard further reported staff members Melissa Creel, Chelsea Ansley, Michael King, and Brian Spradley were so helpful in getting everything connected, downloaded, and helping her understand what buttons to press to get the channels she wanted to watch. McGalliard further noted that even when everything did not work on the second day, the staff continued to provide exceptional service and had her issues resolved quickly. She thanked Councilmembers and staff for listening and then helping her through the challenges.
2. Keith Thomas, resident of Woods Gate Lane, Thomasville, Georgia, commended staff for their presentations at the recent Workshop and noted they were very well done. He noted he was annoyed with recent actions of an individual who recorded a personal conversation and indicated that elected officials should be more considerate with such matters.
3. Veronica Scott, resident of Pinecrest Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia, voiced concerns with Mr. Thomas' comments and indicated such matters should be considered as private and between those individuals. She reported, on a positive note, that she was on her way to present a scholarship award to assist a student who has an opportunity to attend college.
4. Candee Henderson, resident of Thomas County, Georgia, spoke in favor of Thomasville and Thomas County transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2035. She requested to know what it would take for the Council to present a proclamation recognizing climate change in Thomasville. She reported on several recent news headlines where companies had completed deals to ensure solar panel implementation in Georgia counties and encouraged the City of Thomasville to incentivize customers who choose to utilize solar power and to work towards renewable energy where possible.

ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Mobley requested to add two items relating to 111 Phelps Street, Thomasville, Georgia, to the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to add "Consider the adoption of a resolution of emergency to provide for the first and second readings of an ordinance at this one meeting, in relation to 111 Phelps Street, Thomasville, Georgia." 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.

Councilmember Chastain moved to add "Consider an ordinance on first and second reading, under resolution of emergency, to confirm the declaration and order by the City Manager, in relation to 111 Phelps Street, Thomasville, Georgia." 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.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Second reading of an ordinance to rename Susie Way to Mother E Douglas Way.

City Planner, Kenny Thompson reported there were no amendments to the ordinance since its passage on first reading. He briefly reviewed the ordinance honors the memory of Mother Earleane Douglas who ran The Rescue Mission Ministries for many years that served the underprivileged of the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to order the ordinance to rename Susie Way to Mothe E. Douglas Way as read for the second time, passed, and adopted, as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

The adopted ordinance follows.

ORD NO.: ORD-08-05132024

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE STREET NAME OF SUSIE WAY TO MOTHER E DOUGLAS WAY; TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF 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 Susie Way be changed to Mother E. Douglas Way.

SECTION II

BE IT ORDAINED that all ordinances of the City of Thomasville in conflict herewith be the same are hereby repealed for purposes of this ordinance only.

SECTION III

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

SECTION IV

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

SECTION V

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 VI

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 VII

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 extent 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 VIII

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 IX

This ordinance was introduced and read at a lawful meeting of the City Council for the City of Thomasville, Georgia, held on April 22, 2024, and read the second time, passed, and adopted in like meeting held on May 13, 2024.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

Consider the adoption of a resolution of emergency to provide for the first and second readings of an ordinance at this one meeting, in relation to 111 Phelps Street, Thomasville, Georgia.

Executive Director of Engineering and Inspections, Mark Harmon, reported there existed an emergency need to adopt an ordinance on first and second readings at this one meeting, in relation to 111 Phelps Street, Thomasville. Georgia.

Councilmember Baker moved to adopt a Resolution of Emergency to provide for the first and second readings of an ordinance at this one meeting, as presented. Councilmember Chastain 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 EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, after numerous citizen complaints and upon the own motion of the city manager, pursuant to section 5-381 of Article XI, Unfit Buildings or Structures, of the Code of Thomasville, Georgia ("Code) a hearing was properly noticed and conducted on May 6, 2024 ("Hearing") concerning the unsafe and unsanitary condition of the dwelling located at 111 Phelps Street, Thomasville ("Property"), as well as the accumulation of weeds, trash, junk, filth and other unsafe and unsanitary conditions outside the dwelling but located on the Property;

WHEREAS, in connection with the Hearing the city manager (1) determined that the dwelling located on the Property is unfit for human habitation and is an unfit dwelling as defined in section 5-380 of the Code due to (i) defective or inadequate plumbing, improper sanitation facilities, insufficient ventilation, and lack of running water, as required by the building code of the City, and/or Article XI of the Code, and (ii) lack of proper maintenance, deterioration or decay, or fire hazards, are unsafe, unsanitary, or dangerous to human life, safety, health and morals and (2) determined that there was an accumulation of weeds, trash, junk, filth and other unsafe and unsanitary conditions outside the dwelling but located on the Property creating a public health hazard and a general nuisance to those persons in the vicinity of the Property;

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 5-381€ of the Code, the city manager ordered the owner of the property located at 111 Phelps Street, Thomasville, Georgia; to (i) repair the dwelling located on the Property in order to remedy the defective or inadequate plumbing, improper sanitation facilities, insufficient ventilation, lack of running water, as required by the building code of the city, or Article XI of the Code, and the lack of proper maintenance, deterioration and decay, and fire hazards, that are unsafe, unsanitary, and dangerous to human life, safety, health and morals *or* absent such repair close, secure, and vacate such dwelling and (ii) remove and abate the accumulation of weeds, trash, junk, filth and other unsafe and unsanitary conditions outside the dwelling but located on the Property that were found to create a public health hazard and a general nuisance to those persons in the vicinity of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the owner of such property was given seven (7) days to comply with such order and has failed to comply with such order.

WHEREAS, section 5-381€ of the Code requires the City Council to approve by ordinance the actions of the city manager described above;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in the interest of public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Thomasville, the Mayor and Council of the City of Thomasville hereby determine that there exists an emergency in connection with the conditions present at and within 111 Phelps Street as described above and that such exigent circumstances necessitate the adoption of an ordinance on first and second readings at this one meeting pursuant to City of Thomasville Ordinance Section 2-2 in order to repair, remedy and abate the conditions present at and within 111 Phelps Street as described above

SO DONE this the 13th day of May, 2024.

Consider an ordinance, under resolution of emergency, to confirm the declaration and order by the City Manager: (1) That the dwelling located at 111 Phelps Street is unfit for human habitation pursuant to the code of ordinances of City of Thomasville; and (2) that such dwelling shall be closed and vacated by all occupants and secured until such dwelling has been repaired; and (3) that the accumulation of all trash, junk, filth, and other unsanitary or unsafe conditions located at and on 111 Phelps Street and other unsafe and unsanitary conditions that have been found to create a public health hazard and a general nuisance to those persons residing in the vicinity of the property shall be removed and such health hazard and general nuisance shall be abated.

Executive Director of Engineering and Inspections, Mark Harmon, provided an overview of the dilapidated structure. This structure has been in a deteriorating state without utilities for an extended period. The current owner of the property has been residing there in deplorable conditions and recently invited several others to live there. They were residing in tents in the back and side yards. As you can see, they brough animals, lots of other belongings, created lots of trash, junk and even human waste on site. The odor, noise and disturbance for this neighborhood is far beyond what is allowed under unfit statutes. Notices of Unfit structure status along with a scheduled hearing date were sent April 24, 2024, to the owner of record and posted at the site. The Unfit structure case was brought before the City Manager in an advertised hearing on May 6, 2024, where an order was lawfully issued to clear the property of all trash and debris, remove all items from the property that are not a part of the house itself, vacate the property and board up all windows and doors until such time that repairs are completed to allow human occupancy. The owner was granted 7

days to complete this task. The (Lis Pendens) order was recorded mailed to the owner and posted on site per the requirement by COT ordinances and Georgia Law. In total, there have been five Code Enforcement cases at this address for overgrowth, abandoned vehicles, sanitation, and now unfit/unsafe conditions. This house has not had utilities or running water since 2022. The photos included show the exterior conditions on site. We have received a total of 9 recorded complaints and had multiple conversations about this property in less than 30 days. It was reported that a physical review of the property on the afternoon of May 13, 2024, revealed the owner was not in compliance of the order and deadline.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to order the ordinance relating to 111 Phelps Street, Thomasville, Georgia, as read for the first and second times, under resolution of emergency, as presented, as passed, and adopted. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. It was noted that this ordinance was in relation to 111 Phelps Street and did not encompass any additional properties or structures not at this address. It was further reported that the owner of record for this address was under an order from the judge to serve the balance of six months in jail if the property and structure was not vacated and cleared as was ordered. It was also noted that the process set forth in the Property Maintenance Code for the City of Thomasville would be followed if the owner of record desired to make repairs. There was no further discussion and the motion remained unchanged. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

NEW BUSINESS

First reading of an ordinance to enact a new Chapter 23, captioned “Parks”.

City Attorney, Timothy C. Sanders reported the City is fortunate to have a large number of parks and has maintained an internal, administrative process for addressing certain uses of parks, ranging from reserving picnic pavilions and athletic fields to permitting large scale organized activities in parks. Unfortunately, a pattern of misuse of the parks and park facilities has developed, ranging from instances of vandalism of bathroom facilities to the theft of ornamental plants planted by the City. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide both a framework for the already established administrative processes and promote the proper use and preservation of the City’s parks. Key aspects of the ordinance are as follows:

- Provides a framework and guidelines for already established procedures for reserving parks, as well as addressing revoking permits and cancelling events.
- Provides hours for park usage between sundown and sunrise, unless otherwise posted.
- Regulates dumping and littering, fires, private grills, swimming / bathing, vehicles, and animals in parks.

Attorney Sanders provided the following description of sections of the new ordinance, noting that the language relating to private grills had been revised based on discussion during Council Workshop.

Section 23-3: This section provides a framework for the City’s already established processes and procedures for reserving parks and park facilities. In addition, this section provides guidelines for the issuance of permits for the use of parks and park facilities, as well as addresses the circumstances under which a permit may be revoked or an event cancelled, such as violation of the park’s ordinance or inclement weather.

Section 23-4. This section establishes City wide hours of use for parks. Staff recommended a standard time for use of sunrise to sundown unless otherwise posted. The underlying premise is that many parks, particularly passive parks are not lighted and are better suited to this time frame. Conversely, some parks are lit, like Cherokee Park and Remington Park and could be posted with a different open hours period, such as being closed from midnight until 5:00 a.m.

Section 23-5. This section prohibits the destruction of park property and similar behavior.

Section 23-6. This section prohibits dumping and littering in parks.

Section 23-7. This section prohibits the operation of motor vehicles, which includes ATVs and PTVs, in parks unless on designated roads and parking areas.

Section 23-8. This section addresses animals in parks, in coordination with the Animal Control ordinance. Dogs, cats, and other domestic pets may be brought into parks, subject to the control requirements of the Animal Control ordinance. However, they are prohibited from being in or on any athletic fields in any park. This is a slight change from the current provisions of the Animal Control ordinance, which simply prohibits dogs, cats, or pets from Remington Park. Staff recommended this change, and a corresponding change to the Animal Control ordinance, in that there are other athletic fields in other parks besides Remington and that the primary concern with animals was feces on playing fields. Under this proposed language, dogs for example could be in Remington Park, just not on any of the athletic fields.

Section 23-9. This section addresses fires in parks. In short, fires are prohibited unless set in connection with authorized work by the City by either City personnel or contractors. Privately owned grills or smokers may not be utilized in parks unless requested and authorized, subject to reasonable conditions placed on their use by the City. Otherwise, fires and attendant grilling may only be done in City owned, designated grills already in the parks.

5/8/24 Revision: Section 23-9(c) has been revised to remove the requirement that permission must first be obtained before bringing a private grill into a park. The section does still otherwise prohibit fires in parks unless they are in a grill and requires that grills must be appropriately supervised and extinguished after use.

Section 23-10. Swimming and bathing are prohibited in any of the ponds or other bodies of water located in the parks.

Section 23-11. This section clarifies that the ordinance does not in any way restrict City personnel performing City work in the parks.

Section 23-12. This section authorizes the City Manager to establish emergency rules for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of Park visitors and to protect Park property.

Section 23-13. This section provides that violations of this ordinance shall be punished in accordance to section 1-7 of the City's ordinances. Section 1-7 provides the default penalties for violations of any City ordinance. In short, violators could be sentenced in municipal court to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months.

Councilmember Chastain moved to order the ordinance to enact a new Chapter 23, captioned "Parks" as read for the first time, passed, and carried over as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. Councilmember Brown inquired if there was a designated area at the Park that would accommodate the placement of spent hot coals from grills before the individuals left the park. Interim City Manager White noted staff would follow up on that request. There was no further discussion and the motion remained unchanged. The motion passed 5-0, with the following votes recorded: AYES: Mobley, Scott, Chastain, Baker, and Brown.

The title of the ordinance read for the first time, passed, and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, BY (1) ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 23, CAPTIONED "PARKS"; (2) REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND (3) PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

First reading of an ordinance to amend Section 4-29, captioned "Prohibited Acts" of Article II, Animal Control, Chapter 4 Animals.

City Attorney, Timothy C. Sanders reported that in connection with the drafting of the proposed Parks ordinance, the issue of animals being present in parks and under what conditions were considered. Attorney Sanders noted that Section 4-29(a) of the Animal Control ordinance currently allows animals in parks, subject to being under control as defined in the ordinance. The exception is Remington Park, in which pet animals of any kind are absolutely. The

proposed amendment would allow pets in all of the parks in the City, but would prohibit them from being on any athletic field in any of the parks in the City. For example, if the amendment were passed, a dog could be walked on the sidewalks in Remington Park, but would be prohibited from being on any of the baseball or soccer fields.

Councilmember Brown moved to order the ordinance to amend Section 4-29, captioned “Prohibited Acts” of Article II, captioned “Animal Control” of Chapter 4, captioned “Animals” as read for the first time passed and carried over. 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 title of the ordinance read for the first time, passed, and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, BY (1) AMENDING SECTION 4-29, CAPTIONED “PROHIBITED ACTS,” OF ARTICLE II, ANIMAL CONTROL, CHAPTER 4, ANIMALS; (2) REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND (3) PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

First reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 14, captioned “Sewerage”.

Assistant Utilities Superintendent, Eric Gossett reported the City of Thomasville has been working to update the Chapter 14 Sewerage ordinance to align it with the City of Thomasville’s business practices and State and Federal regulations. In addition to the Environmental Protection Agency’s policies and regulations, an updated ordinance will allow the City of Thomasville to continue utilizing best practices. Additionally, developers look to ordinances as a guide when deciding to build in Thomasville. The proposed ordinance has been drafted over a span of 24 months through extensive research and assistance of outside agencies. Chapter 14 regulates the bulk of sewerage operations throughout the sewer system and Thomasville. The proposed ordinance will provide updated terminology, remove standards that are no longer relevant to modern day practice and those that do not align with best business practices. Additionally, the proposed ordinance will provide updated terminology and definitions for fees and update enforcement sections to align with best practices. It is requested that Council consider an ordinance to amend Chapter 14 to align terminology, definitions, business practices and enforcement of ordinance. Assistant Utilities Superintendent Gossett reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the substantial changes to the current Chapter 14 and its sections and noted that Council had received the PowerPoint and a redline version of the proposed amendments in their 05.08.2024 and 05.13.2024 Electronic Council Agenda Packet (ECAP) prior to the Workshop and Meeting.

Councilmember Baker moved to order the ordinance to amend Chapter 14, “Sewerage”, as read for the first time, passed, and carried over as presented. Councilmember Chastain 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 title of the ordinance read for the first time, passed, and carried over follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, BY (1) DELETING CHAPTER 14, CAPTIONED “SEWERAGE,” IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW CHAPTER 14, CAPTIONED “SEWERAGE;” (2) REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND (3) PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Resolution in support of referendum relating to Transportation Special Local Option Sales and Use Tax (TSPLOST).

Interim City Manager, Chris White reported Thomas County does not currently impose a Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax on eligible purchases within Thomas County. As directed by City Council, the drafted resolution requests the Thomas County Board of Commissioners to submit a referendum in March of 2025 pursuant to and in conformity with the procedures set forth in the Act to Thomas County voters for their approval of the question of whether or not a TSPLOST should be imposed on all sales and uses allowed by law within Thomas County for the

benefit of all citizens of Thomas County and its municipalities. It was noted that, if a favorable vote was returned, the TSPLOST funds collected would be used for transportation purposes only and would be a fair tax paid by residents and visitors to Thomas County. Interim City Manager White reported the Mayors of all Thomas County Municipalities of Thomas County would be encouraged to adopt a like resolution and submit it to the Thomas County Board of Commissioners within the coming months.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to adopt the TSPLOST resolution 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.

The adopted resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Article 5A of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated O.C.G.A. §48-8-260 through O.C.G.A. §48-8-269.6 (the “Act”) authorizes a county to impose for a limited period of time a county-wide Transportation Special Local Option Sales and Use Tax (the “TSPLOST”) subject to the Act for designated transportation purposes at a rate of up to 1% subject to approval by the voters within the designated county at a referendum held for such purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville is the largest municipality in Thomas County, with an official population of 18,881 and is a qualified municipality as defined in O.C.G.A. §48-8-110; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville is host to over 1,500 promotional events held in downtown Thomasville, with an annual visitor attendance of over 166,000; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville has record of over 588,000 visitors in Thomasville throughout a five-year period who have attended various events such as: Rose Show & Festival, Victorian Christmas Festival, and Downtown Thomasville Sip & Shops; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville desires to request the Thomas County Board of Commissioners to submit a referendum in March of 2025 pursuant to and in conformity with the procedures set forth in the Act to Thomas County voters for their approval of the question of whether or not a TSPLOST should be imposed on all sales and uses allowed by law within Thomas County for the benefit of all citizens of Thomas County and its municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby requests the Thomas County Board of Commissioners of Thomasville, Georgia, call for the Election pursuant to and in conformity with the procedures set forth in the Act to be held in all voting precincts in Thomas County on the second Tuesday in March, 2025, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the County for their approval, the question of whether or not a Transportation Special Local Option Sales and Use Tax (TSPLOST) at a rate of up to 1% to be imposed on all sales and uses allowed by law within Thomas County, Georgia, for a lawful period of time and for the raising of funds designated for transportation purposes within Thomas County and its collective municipalities as provided for by the Act.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia on this, the 13th day of May 2024.

Resolution to authorize application to, and acceptance of, the FY 2024 Georgia Department of Transportation Supplemental Local Maintenance Improvement Resurfacing Grant.

Executive Director of Engineering and Inspections, Mark Harmon reported that in March of this year, the City of Thomasville was notified by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) of Local Road Assistance (LRA) supplemental grant funds eligibility in the amount of \$375,035.41. This is to provide resurfacing assistance for roads

within the City limits. The grant application must be submitted through the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Application (LMIG) website. There is no local match required to receive the funds. The roadways selected for resurfacing are based on factors such as the Roadbotics ride score, the condition of underlying utilities, and coordination with upcoming grant projects. The roads planned to be addressed with the project are as follows:

- Orchard Lane (Remington Avenue to East Jackson Street)
- Metcalf Avenue (Baybrook Street to East Pinetree Boulevard)

Director Harmon further reported that all utilities along Metcalf Avenue have been upgraded, so it is ready for resurfacing. It was removed from the 2022 SPLOST-LMIG Resurfacing projects due to construction costs. The resolution would authorize the submittal of the LMIG application and authorize the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to sign necessary and related documents.

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve 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, desire to provide resurfacing street improvement within the city limits for the betterment of the community's transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to obtain grant funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance Improvement Grant for assistance with street resurfacing improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, has received an email from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) with a link to the Department's website showing a grant formula amount of \$375,035.41 on March 15, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, recognizes there are not any local matching funds required towards the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant for street resurfacing improvements; 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 in relation to the Fiscal Year 2024 GDOT Supplemental Local Maintenance Improvement Grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submittal of the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance Improvement 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 Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance Improvement Grant; 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 Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance Improvement Grant application.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 13th day of May 2024.

Resolution to authorize submittal of application for the FY 2024 Partnership For Inclusive Innovation (PIN) Grant.

TPD Records Manager, Duane Treadon reported that the Partnership for Inclusive Innovation believes new ideas come from anywhere and everywhere, but that the opportunity to innovate has not been shared equally. By democratizing access to funding and support networks through resources across business, research universities and government, the Partnership advances all Georgians by supporting those with vision. One of PIN’s four key pillars is Community Research. PIN will provide social and financial capital for researching our community needs. Through a partnership with researchers at GA Tech, staff will provide access to data for analysis. This project will review the available data, analyze the information, and review scholarly literature and reports to identify and evaluate existing evidenced-based intervention and prevention strategies. Analysis of the data in conjunction with other data sources and community surveys by the department will establish an understanding of past and current crime patterns. All sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII) contained in the data will be safeguarded using the TPD Rules of Conduct for Disclosure of Departmental Records and Reports. Excerpt:

4.1.14 DISCLOSURE OF DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. An employee will not disclose and/or release any confidential departmental policies, plans, reports, records, crime records, operations, or other sensitive information except as authorized in applicable written directives, and in compliance with state and federal laws. (82.1.7)

B. GCIC information will not be released to any individual other than departmental employees or another law enforcement agencies carrying out a law enforcement objective. All releases of GCIC information will comply with GCIC regulations, pursuant to SOP 2.17 – GCIC Rules and Regulations and any other applicable written directives. (82.1.7)

Manager Treadon requested Council authorize the submission of a FY 2024 PIN grant application in an amount up to \$150,000 and authorize the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem to sign all necessary and related documents.

Councilmember Chastain moved to approve 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

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to provide the necessary resources for data review and analysis, and conduct a systematic literature review of violence intervention strategies for the Thomasville Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to submit an application to the Partnership for Inclusive Innovation (PIN) Community Research grant program to provide recommendations for an evidence-based violence reduction intervention strategy for the Thomasville Police Department.

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville Police Department has an opportunity to submit a FY 2024 PIN application for a grant of up to one-hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) 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 FY 2024 PIN Grant application; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby authorizes the submission of a FY 2024 PIN grant application in an amount up to \$150,000; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the expenditure of up to \$150,000 and the Mayor of the City of Thomasville and

Mayor Pro Tem, as the signatory on all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary in relation to the FY 2024 PIN Grant application.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 13th day of May 2024.

Resolution to ratify authorization to apply for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) FY 2024 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Implementation Projects Solicitation.

Police Chief, Wade Glover reported LEMHWA funds are used to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for first responders through the implementation of peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other promising practices for wellness programs. The Thomasville Police Department will use the grant funds to provide wellness solutions for first responders. An explanation of each element is in the attached Health and Wellness document. The proposed application will request \$108,600 in grant funds with no local match required. Pursuant to the City of Thomasville's Grants Policies and Procedures, the application deadline for submission of the FY 2024 COPS LEMHWA grant created the need for the application to be submitted prior to Council approval; therefore, the approval shall be ratified by the Mayor and Council. It is requested that the Council take appropriate action to ratify authorization to apply to the FY2024 COPS LEMHWA program as to provide wellness solutions for first responders in our community.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Chastain 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 provide the necessary mental health and wellness services for our first responders; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to submit an application to the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) FY2024 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Implementation Project to provide wellness solutions for first responders.

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville Police Department has an opportunity to submit a FY 2024 COPS LEMHWA application for a grant of up to one-hundred twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$108,600) in funding assistance; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, desires to authorize the Mayor to sign all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary in relation to the FY 2024 COPS LEMHWA Grant application; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City of Thomasville's Grants Policies and Procedures, the application deadline for submission of the FY 2024 COPS LEMHWA grant created the need for the application to be submitted prior to Council approval; therefore, the approval shall be ratified by the Mayor and Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, hereby ratifies the authorization for the submission of a FY 2024 COPS LEMHWA grant application in an amount up to \$108,600; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, further authorizes the expenditure of up to \$108,600 and the Mayor of the City of Thomasville and

Mayor Pro Tem as the signatory on all necessary and related documents as shall be necessary in relation to the FY 2024 COPS LEMHWA Grant application.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, on this, the 13th day of May 2024.

Motion to approve and authorize execution of Automatic Aid Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Thomasville, Thomasville Fire Rescue, and Thomas County Fire Rescue.

Fire Chief, Tim Connell reported that the Thomasville Fire Rescue (TFR) did not receive credit for Automatic Aid from the recent ISO (Insurance Services Office) inspection. During the recent ISO inspection site visit, TFR was informed that ISO will no longer give credit for automatic aid agreements that have specific addresses or zones. ISO instructed TFR that for TFR to receive the automatic mutual aid credit, they would have to respond to confirmed structure fires county-wide. The county must also respond within the city limits to all confirmed structure fires. This requires an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City and County Fire Rescue Departments for Automatic Aid. The IGA outlines the provision for TFR's cooperation with Thomas County Fire Rescue and a uniform response to structure fires within the Thomas County Fire District and the Thomasville Fire District. In summary, for confirmed structure fires only, TFR would send one engine with a minimum of two firefighters and a command vehicle; Thomas County Fire Rescue would do the same. Once an apparatus arrives on the scene and determines their agency can handle the incident, the incoming unit would be canceled. With the execution of this agreement, TFR and Thomas County Fire Rescue would again receive full credit from ISO for automatic aid in the future. It is requested that Consider approving and authorizing the Mayor's signature to execute an Automatic Aid Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Thomasville, Thomasville Fire Rescue, and Thomas County Fire Rescue.

Councilmember Baker moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement and to authorize the Mayor's signature to execute the IGA as presented. Councilmember Chastain 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 authorize Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to sign and execute the agreement to lease the Fast-Fill Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Station to Logix Development, LLC.

Assistant Utilities Superintendent, Eric Gossett reported that The City of Thomasville has operated a fast fill compressed natural gas (CNG) station since 2013 at 1334 West Jackson Street. The City of Thomasville has leased the land for the sum of \$28,800 annually from Logix Development, LLC. Retail sales have also decreased from a high of \$226,000 in 2017 and are projected to only generate \$25,000 in 2024. Additionally, the City of Thomasville has relied heavily on a credit program from the Federal Government to be able to maintain margin. However, this program could go away in the future, which would create a heavy burden for the City of Thomasville. The City of Thomasville approached the landowner in an interest of them leasing the CNG station from the City of Thomasville. The lease would be for the sum of \$1 per month with the lessee purchasing the natural gas from the City of Thomasville in the sum of \$1 per ccf. Logix Development LLC would be responsible for selling gallon gas equivalent (GGE) to CNG vehicles. The lease agreement would mitigate an annual \$28,800 expense to the City of Thomasville while generating approximately \$14,832 in natural gas sales at the station. The lease would be for a period of 12 months with four additional 12-month terms unless terminated. It is requested that the City Council authorizes the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to sign all necessary documents related to the lease agreement with Logix Development, LLC.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to authorize the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to sign and execute the agreement to lease the Fast-Fill Compressed Natural Gas Station to Logix Development, LLC 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.

REPORTS

Interim City Manager White reported the Thomasville Police Department Command Inspection is scheduled for May 16, 2024, at 6:00 PM and encouraged Councilmembers and the community to attend.

Councilmembers collectively commended the many TEAM Thomasville employees for their efforts during the 103rd Annual Rose Show & Festival. They also acknowledged Mrs. Vicky Bryson, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, and thanked her for assisting Councilmembers with scheduling their many meetings and ensuring they have what all information needed prior to any event they attend as Councilmembers.

Councilmember Chastain recognized the City of Thomasville Electric Department for extending their assistance to Tallahassee, Florida, to restore power following the recent inclement weather and tornados in the Tallahassee community.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no additional business for consideration at this meeting, the City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

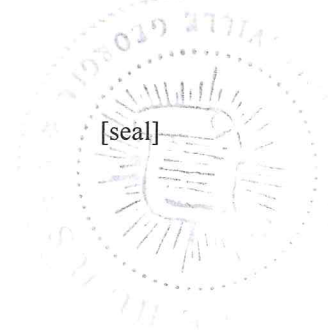
CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



Mayor, Todd Mobley



ATTEST: City Clerk



[seal]