

City of Thomasville Council Meeting, February 24, 2025

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 City Manager, Chris White; Assistant City Manager, Sheryl Sealy; City Attorney, Timothy C. Sanders; Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Cason; 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 Royal Baker gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2025, 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.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

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

1. Keith Thomas, resident of Woods Gate Drive addressed Councilmembers regarding concerns for the safety of the youth in the Thomasville community. He cited a recent incident of a young person riding a dirt bike who was not obeying the traffic laws. Mr. Thomas encouraged Councilmembers and the community to strive to better engage the youth within the community in positive and mentoring manner.

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 for consideration by Councilmembers at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider ordinances to demolish unfit structures in Thomasville, Georgia.

Executive Director of Inspections & Engineering, Mark Harmon, reported for each location.

1. **First reading of an ordinance to demolish an unfit structure located at 509 West Clay Street.**

Director Harmon reported that this structure has been in a deteriorating state without utilities for an extended period. The required appraisals were completed to confirm that it meets the threshold for demolition. Notices of Unfit structure status along with a scheduled hearing date were sent March 25, 2024, to known interested parties and posted at the site. The Unfit structure case was brought before the City Manager in an advertised hearing on April 16, 2024, where an order was lawfully issued to demolish

this structure within 120 days. The (Lis Pendens) order was recorded mailed to all parties identified, posted on site, and printed in the required intervals in the legal section of the Times Enterprise per the requirement by City of Thomasville ordinances and Georgia Law. According to the Tax Assessor's office, the dwelling was constructed in 1954. The dwelling is in a severely deteriorated state and not habitable. It is unoccupied and has been unoccupied for about 3-5 years. Photographs indicated that the house has not been maintained in many, many years. The entire house is in a fragile state. Much of the floor system and interior is missing where the crawl space floor is visible. The electrical, plumbing, and heating systems are missing and would require complete replacement. The Owner(s) initially pledged cooperation and submitted an application for demolition through a contractor in July 2024. The permit was never paid, and no other actions have followed.

Councilmember Brown moved to order the ordinance to demolish the unfit structure located at 821 Oak Street, Thomasville, Georgia, as read for the first time, passed and carried over, as presented. 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.

The ordinance title follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 509 W CLAY STREET, THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; OWNED BY BETTY JEAN JONES; TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

2. First reading of an ordinance to demolish an unfit structure located at 821 Oak Street.

Director Harmon reported that This structure has been in a deteriorating state for an extended period and damaged by fire. The required appraisals were completed to confirm that it meets the threshold for demolition. Notices of Unfit structure status along with a scheduled hearing date were sent March 21, 2024, to known interested parties and posted at the site. The Unfit structure case was brought before the City Manager in an advertised hearing on April 11, 2024, where an order was lawfully issued to demolish this structure within 30 days. The (Lis Pendens) order was recorded mailed to all parties identified, posted on site, and printed in the required intervals in the legal section of the Times Enterprise per the requirement by City of Thomasville ordinances and Georgia Law. According to the Tax Assessor's office, the dwelling was constructed in 1911. Only about 50% of this dwelling is standing and the structure is not habitable. The building is unoccupied. Photographs depicted very poor condition of the house. The remaining sections of the house are in a fragile state. Much of the floor system and interior is missing where the crawl space floor is visible. The electrical, plumbing, and heating systems are missing and would require complete replacement.

Councilmember Chastain moved to order the ordinance to demolish the unfit structure located at 821 Oak Street, Thomasville, Georgia, as read for the first time, passed and carried over, as presented. Councilmember Baker 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.

The ordinance title follows.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 821 OAK STREET, THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA; OWNED BY TISHA STEWART; TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Resolution to revise the Vision Statement for the City of Thomasville.

Assistant City Manager, Sheryl Sealy reported that in 2020, the Thomasville City Council adopted a vision statement that was aimed at providing a clear and compelling vision in the planning for the future of a healthy organization. The

vision statement provides the force that drives effective adaptation, excellence and success of the organization. Many critical functions of the City of Thomasville are aligned with the mission and vision statements, which are designed to engage our staff while also providing a positive tone for our organization's commitment to serving our customers and our citizens. The current City Council and executive leadership team have been engaged in a strategic planning process that is aimed at devising a comprehensive framework for long-term success and sustainable community growth. Through a strategic plan, the Council can address both immediate challenges and future opportunities, ensuring that city policies and projects are aligned with the overall vision for the community. As part of this process, the City Council has considered the City's current vision statement and made positive adjustments that serve to further strengthen our organization's commitment to serving our customers and our citizens. It is requested that the Thomasville City Council formally adopt the City of Thomasville's new vision statement as follows:

Our city envisions a future where economic vitality, affordability, and diversity thrive together. We embrace innovation, enhance quality of life, and preserve our rich history and unique charm, ensuring a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community for all.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott moved to adopt a resolution that adopts the City's new Vision Statement 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

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA, ADOPTING A NEW VISION STATEMENT FOR THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE THAT PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK, DIRECTION AND SENSE OF PURPOSE FOR MAKING DECISIONS THAT IMPACT THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE AND THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Thomasville believes that a clear and compelling vision statement is vital to the planning for the future of a healthy organization; and

WHEREAS, the vision statement provides the organizing force that drives effective adaptation, excellence and success; and

WHEREAS, many critical functions of the City of Thomasville are aligned with the vision statement which will engage its employees to achieve a collaborative purpose for interactions with citizens and customers; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with executive leadership, the Thomasville City Council has developed a vision statement for the City of Thomasville to provide the framework that gives the city staff both a direction and a sense of purpose in making decisions that impact the City of Thomasville and the Community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Thomasville, Georgia hereby adopts the following as the vision statement for the City of Thomasville:

Vision Statement

Our city envisions a future where economic vitality, affordability, and diversity thrive together. We embrace innovation, enhance quality of life, and preserve our rich history and unique charm, ensuring a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community for all.

PASSED APPROVED AND ADOPTED the 24th day of February, 2025.

REPORTS

City Manager White commended Event Venue & Facilities Manager, Mary Patchunka-Smith, for her efforts in coordinating the Street Renaming Ceremony in Honor of United States Secretary of Defense General Lloyd J. Austin, III. He noted the event was well attended and recognized TEAM Thomasville staff members for their time and efforts in assisting with the event.

Councilmembers collectively echoed City Manager White’s sentiments and added that they had received numerous comments from the community, General Austin and his family noting the overwhelming success of the event.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business for consideration, the Thomasville City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

CITY OF THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



Mayor, Todd Mobley



ATTEST: City Clerk

