

MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 AT 6:00 PM.

In attendance: Mayor Raleigh York Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Ron Bratton and Council Members Neal Grimes, Joe Leonard, Jane Murphy, Wendy Sellars, Scott Styers and Hunter Thrift.

The following staff members attended the meeting: City Manager Michael Brandt; City Attorney Misti Whitman; Finance Director Thomas Avant; Planning Director Chuck George; Police Chief Mark Kattner and City Clerk Wendy Martin.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Raleigh York, Jr. called the meeting of the Thomasville City Council to order. He welcomed everyone in attendance and all the viewers on Channel 13 and online.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting on March 15, 2021

Council Member Sellars moved that Council approve the minutes of the Council meeting on March 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thrift. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Michael Brandt requested the following additions to the agenda:

- 7.E. Consideration of Thomasville Personnel Policy Amendment – e-sick**
- 7.F. Consideration of Resolution Opposing Proposed Zoning Reform**

Council Member Styers moved that Council adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimes. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

4. RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Council Member Murphy presented a Proclamation for PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH to Lillian Koontz, Director of Davidson County Health Department.

Council Member Murphy then thanked Ms. Koontz for the “tremendous job” she has done leading the Health Department, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic. She said, “You guys have done a stellar job, and we really applaud you.”

Director Koontz thanked the Mayor, City Council members, City Manager and the Thomasville City School system for their “strong partnership” with the Health Department, and she encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

5. PUBLIC FORUM – Mayor York explained that the Public Forum was the citizens’ opportunity to speak for 2 minutes on any topic. He asked people to leave their contact information on the sign-up sheet, if they wished to be contacted by Council or City Staff.

Linda Melton and Brenda Young spoke regarding a Gun Violence Awareness Day at Carver Park on 6/5/21 from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. No action was taken. (Update: This was moved to Doak Park.)

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Consideration of Petition for Voluntary Annexation of 1811 Liberty Drive

Mayor York opened the public hearing. No one came forward to speak for or against this matter. Mayor York closed the public hearing.

Council Member Murphy moved to approved the Voluntary Annexation of 1811 Liberty Drive. This motion was seconded by Council Member Styers and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

B. Consideration of Moratorium on Certain Development in Areas Served by Rains Road Sewer Pump Station

Mayor York opened the public hearing. No one came forward to speak for or against this matter. Mayor York closed the public hearing.

City Manager Michael Brandt asked City Council to pull this moratorium from the agenda, as it was premature, and give staff more time to come up with a different plan for this area.

Council Member Styers moved to withdraw this item from the agenda and return it to the appropriate Council Committee for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thrift and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

C. Consideration of Moratorium on Certain Development in the Jimmy's Creek Watershed Basin

City Manager Brandt explained that this is a six-month moratorium in order to review the watershed regulations at Jimmy's Creek, because of flooding in that area.

Mayor York opened the public hearing. No one came forward to speak for or against this matter. Mayor York closed the public hearing.

Council Member Grimes moved to approve this Moratorium. The motion was seconded by Council Member Murphy and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

7. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Shared Agency Agreement for new CAD Dispatch System for Police Department

Police Chief Mark Kattner explained that Davidson County was switching to a new Motorola CAD system and RMS system. TPD wanted to join them on the CAD system only. (He felt the RMS system was outdated and old.)

The benefits of joining the CAD system would include the MCT receiving and dispatching the calls, as well as analysis of the crimes to provide information for their monthly report.

Council Member Styers moved to approve this Shared Agency Agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sellars and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

B. Budget Amendment: Painting Clock Tower, Big Chair and City Hall

Finance Director Thomas Avant explained:

- Beautification Committee would pay to have the *Clock Tower* painted;
- Tourism Commission would pay to have the *Big Chair* painted, and funds donated by the Thomasville Class Reunion would be used for landscaping around the Big Chair; and
- City Hall would pay from contingency funding to have the exterior of *City Hall* painted.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve this Budget Agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leonard and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

C. Budget Amendment: Development of a Community Survey

Finance Director Avant advised that this budget amendment for \$18,500 of contingent funds would be used to hire Poleco NRC to create a national survey to aid Thomasville in creating a strategic plan for the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Bratton moved to approve this Budget Amendment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thift and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

D. Consideration of West Guilford and Salem Street Cost Share with NCDOT

City Manager Brandt advised that the NCDOT would not pay to replace the stop light that was knocked down by an uninsured motorist. NCDOT had agreed, however, to install a flashing red/yellow caution light there. After that, the City would be responsible for all maintenance and repair costs.

Council Member Grimes moved to approve this Cost Share Agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sellars and was approved 6 - 1.

Council Member Styers voted against this, because it could cost the City a considerable amount of money (potentially up to \$75,000) in future repairs.

E. Consideration of Thomasville Personnel Policy Amendment – e-sick extension

City Manager Brandt asked Council to extend the e-sick policy, including 4 hours of compensation for employees who get fully vaccinated, through July 31, 2021. He said COVID was still active, and not all employees had had the opportunity to get fully vaccinated yet.

Council Member Sellers moved to approve this amendment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimes and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

Council Member Murphy encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

F. Consideration of Resolution opposing proposed Zoning Reform

City Manager Brandt explained that many municipalities in North Carolina were opposing proposed zoning reform in SB 349/HB 401, which he said would “significantly change the potential development patterns and responsibilities of the City and basically remove a lot of authority of local city councils from their jurisdictional controls over the development of their community” (and give it to the State.)

Council Member Styers moved to approve this Resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Murphy.

Council Member Styers said this should concern everyone, and he encouraged people to contact their state legislators to speak against this zoning reform. He said, “This is a tremendous over-reach by the State.”

The motion and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

City Manager Brandt explained each of these items:

- A. CDBG Grant Project Ordinance: Whitewood Industries/Project Liberty – This is an expansion at Whitewood Industries that would create at least 39 jobs with a total cost to Whitewood of \$4.9M. This \$315,000 CDBG grant would be**

paid as follows: \$300,000 by the State and \$15,000 by the City of Thomasville.

- B. Budget Amendment: City's Contribution to Project Liberty CDBG Project – This would allocate the City's \$15,000 portion of the Whitewood Project.
- C. Budget Amendment: Police Vehicle Accident – This would allocate \$1,498 of insurance proceeds received for a PD vehicle accident.
- D. Utility Construction Agreement for Water and Sewer Mains – This is an Agreement with NCDOT to replace the bridge at Smith Drive over Charles Creek for an estimated cost to the City of \$19,965.
- E. Amendment to 35 mph Speed Zones Ordinance - Lexington Avenue
- F. Amendment to 45 mph Speed Zones Ordinance - Lexington Avenue

This would change a portion of Lexington Avenue from 45 mph to 35 mph, making the entire road 35 mph.

Council Member Grimes moved to approve all the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leonard and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS, MAYOR'S REPORT AND APPOINTMENTS, CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

COUNCIL MEMBER RON BRATTON

Council Member Bratton attended the following:

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| 1) City Council Committee Meetings | 03/02/21 |
| 2) City Council Briefing | 03/08/21 |
| 3) City Council Meeting | 03/15/21 |

Council Member Bratton had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER NEAL GRIMES

Council Member Grimes attended the following:

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| 1) HPMPO Meeting | 03/23/21 |
| 2) HPMPO Meeting to Vote on Public Hearing of 03/23/21 | 03/25/21 |
| 3) City Council Committee Meetings | 04/06/21 |
| 4) Memorial Day Committee Meeting | 04/10/21 |
| 5) City Council Briefing Meeting | 04/12/21 |
| 6) PART Board of Directors Meeting | 04/14/21 |
| 7) Memorial Day Committee Meeting | 04/15/21 |
| 8) City Council Meeting | 04/19/21 |

Council Member Grimes had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOE LEONARD

Council Member Leonard attended the following:

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| 1) CrimeStoppers Meeting | 03/25/21 |
| 2) Funeral – Tim Driggers | 04/01/21 |
| 3) City Council Committee Meetings | 04/06/21 |
| 4) City Council Briefing Meeting | 04/12/21 |
| 5) CrimeStoppers Meeting | 04/15/21 |
| 6) City Council Meeting | 04/19/21 |

Council Member Leonard had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER JANE MURPHY

Council Member Murphy attended the following:

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| 1) Top 10 Primer on Transportation Plan in NC Webinar | 03/19/21 |
| 2) Visited Site of City Sewer Line Easement of Jimmy's Creek | 03/22/21 |
| 3) Tourism Commission Meeting | 03/23/21 |
| 4) Department of Social Services Board Meeting | 03/23/21 |
| 5) The CARE Act and Implications Webinar | 03/24/21 |
| 6) DavidsonWorks Board Meeting | 03/25/21 |
| 7) United Way Virtual Annual Meeting | 03/25/21 |
| 8) City Council Committee Meetings | 04/06/21 |
| 9) City Council Briefing Meeting | 04/12/21 |
| 10) City Council Meeting | 04/19/21 |

Council Member Murphy announced that Warren King's 80th birthday would be on April 29th.

COUNCIL MEMBER WENDY SELLARS

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| 1) City Council Committee Meetings | 04/06/21 |
| 2) City Council Briefing Meeting | 04/12/21 |
| 3) City Council Meeting | 04/19/21 |

Council Member Sellars had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCOTT STYERS

Council Member Styers attended the following:

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| 1) City Council Committee Meetings | 04/06/21 |
| 2) Recreation Committee Meeting | 04/06/21 |
| 3) City Council Briefing Meeting | 04/12/21 |
| 4) Thomasville City Schools Hall of Fame Meeting | 04/13/21 |
| 5) City Council Meeting | 04/19/21 |

On behalf of the *Personnel Committee*, Council Member Styers moved to make the following appointments:

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| Beautification: | <u>Whitney Dillon</u> | (Filling Stacy Farrell's unexpired term through 2/28/22) |
| | <u>Brooke Murphy</u> | (Filling a 3-year term through 2/28/24) |
| Board of Education: | <u>Elizabeth deToro</u> | (Filling an unexpired term through 6/30/22) |
| Tourism: | <u>Gloria Brinkley</u> | (Filling an unexpired term for Retail through 2/28/22) |
| | <u>Leslie Watts</u> | (Filling a 3-year term for Retail through 2/28/24) |

The motion was seconded by Council Member Sellars and was unanimously approved 7 - 0.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUNTER THRIFT

Council Member Thrift attended the following:

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| 1) City Council Committee Meetings | 04/06/21 |
| 2) Band Director Recognition at Wheatmore High School | 04/08/21 |
| 3) Memorial Day Committee Meeting | 04/10/21 |

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| 4) City Council Briefing Meeting | 04/12/21 |
| 5) Memorial Day Committee Meeting | 04/15/21 |
| 6) City Council Meeting | 04/19/21 |

Council Member Thrift had no further report.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

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| 1) Beautification Committee Meeting | 03/18/21 |
| 2) Swearing-In: 2 new Police Officers | 03/18/21 |
| 3) Swearing-In: 2 Fire Department Promotions | 03/31/21 |
| 4) City Council Committee Meetings | 04/06/21 |
| 5) Band Director Recognition at Wheatmore High School | 04/08/21 |
| 6) Beautification Litter Sweep | 04/10/21 |
| 7) Ribbon Cutting: Billie's Tip Top Shop | 04/10/21 |
| 8) Meeting with Sam Shumate (Representative from Congressman Ted Budd's Office) and City Manager Michael Brandt | 04/12/21 |
| 9) City Council Briefing Meeting | 04/12/21 |
| 10) City Council Meeting | 04/19/21 |

In addition, Mayor York swore in two new police officers and answered emails and phone calls from various citizens and addressed their concerns.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Manager Brandt announced that City Hall reopened on April 12, 2021, with extra sanitizing precautions in place, including a mask requirement, hand sanitizer stations, social distancing signage and arrows, and UV light air purifiers.

He said Recreation had also opened some facilities and activities, including youth soccer. In addition, bids were being taken for the deconstruction of the old pool to make room for the new pool site.

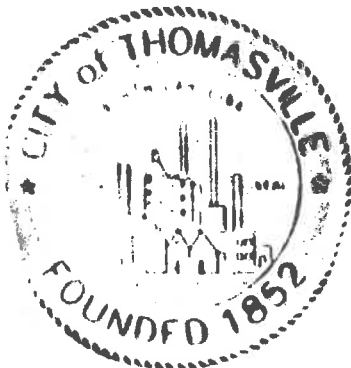
CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Attorney Misti Whitman has been acclimating to her new position and keeping things running smoothly. She said it has been a great transition period. She will welcome Paul Mitchell's former legal assistant Kathy Smith to her firm full time beginning May 1st.

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Sellars moved that Council adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Murphy. No discussion. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.



Raleigh York, Jr.

 Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor

Wendy S. Martin

 Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk