

**MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022 AT 6:00 PM AT 7003 BALLPARK ROAD, THOMASVILLE, NC.**

Elected officials in attendance: Mayor Raleigh York, Jr.; Mayor *Pro Tempore* Hunter Thrift; and Council Members Ron Bratton, Doug Hunt, Wendy Sellars, Lisa Shell, Jeannette Shepherd and Payton Williams.

1. Call to Order – Mayor York called the meeting of the Thomasville City Council to order.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda – City Manager Michael Brandt asked that Council add item 3 to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Thrift moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Hunt seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*
3. Recognitions and Presentations – Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation: Dr. Catherine Gentry

Mayor York thanked retiring Thomasville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Catherine Gentry for her faithful and valuable service to the Thomasville City Schools and presented a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation to her.

On behalf of the entire City Council, Mayor Pro Tem Thrift said, “We know how important it is to have a successful administration that is really strong. We thank you for your service to our community, but most importantly, our students.”

4. Public Forum – Dr. Patricia Smyre, Diversity Equity & Inclusion Officer for the City of Lexington, spoke regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual *Health Equity Conference: “My Health Matters”* on August 12 – 13, 2022. This is open to all Davidson County citizens. See this link for more details: <https://www.lexingtonnc.gov/city-services/administration/diversity-equity-inclusion/health-equity-conference>. No action was taken.
5. Consent Agenda – City Manager Brandt explained these items:
  - A. Approval of Minutes – Special Called Budget Hearing on 06/06/22
  - B. Approval of Minutes – Briefing Meeting on 06/13/22
  - C. Approval of Minutes – Council Meeting on 06/20/22
  - D. Consideration of School Resource Officer Agreement – This is an annual agreement between the City and Thomasville City Schools for the SROs at the High School.
  - E. Consideration of Road Closure Ordinance for Everybody’s Night – This is for the closure of a portion of Main Street for a festival during the evening on 9/23/22.
  - F. Consideration of Road Closure Ordinance for Everybody’s Day – This is for the closure of a portion of Main Street and some surrounding streets for a festival on 9/24/22.

Council Member Hunt moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Shepherd seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

6. Regular Agenda
  - A. Call for Public Hearing on August 15, 2022 for Economic Development Project JT

City Manager Brandt explained that “Project JT” will invest a minimum of \$16,000,000 and create minimum of 30 new jobs. A public hearing will be held at the regular City Council meeting on Monday, August 15 at 6:00 PM at Ball Park Community Center. The Company is requesting tax incentives from the City and County. In addition, the company will also most likely request funding through CDBG State Building Reuse Grant program at a future date.

Council Member Sellars called for public hearing on August 15, 2022 at 7003 Ball Park Road, Thomasville, NC for Economic Development Project JT. Council Member Shell seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

6. Consideration of ARPA & CLFRF Grant Project Ordinance

City Manager Brandt said this will use federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The ordinance appropriates \$157,377 of federal grant funding for an MIS capital

project to expand and upgrade public wi-fi infrastructure, including replacing obsolete and failing hardware, expanding coverage to add new access points to cover areas such as Doak Park, PACE Park, Central Recreation, and the Aquatics Center.

The funding also provides security cameras at park locations for enhanced security.

In addition, the ordinance appropriates \$25,000 for consultation with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council for the development of a North Hamby Creek Greenfield Restoration Planning and Design Master Plan. The plan would guide future development of Plant B on Fisher Ferry, addressing stormwater retrofit, stream restoration, and public involvement. He explained that improvements would include watershed protections and watershed development, because North Hamby Creek runs through the middle of that property creating a significant flood plain. This plan will create a planning document that would be eligible for State grants in the fall/winter of next year.

Mayor Pro Tem Thrift moved to approve this ordinance. Council Member Sellars seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

#### C. Consideration of 2022-2023 ARPA Grant Budget Amendment

City Manager Brandt said that this amendment transfers the appropriate ARPA project funding amounts from the special grant revenue fund to the department where expenses will be paid.

Mayor York advised that this type of amendment will be made every time the City Council approves expenditures of ARPA funds. He said, "It's a good thing when we have these, because we're getting the money spent in some areas where it's needed." Council Member Shepherd moved to approve this budget amendment. Council Member Shell seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

#### D. Consideration of Control of Access to City Properties Ordinance

City Attorney Misti Whitman explained that this ordinance declares certain areas of public City properties to have controlled access. She said, "Those are areas where pertinent information that is private information is not open for normal corporate viewing... We can control who enters the spaces at what time and staff will have the ability to say that's a designated non-public area."

Council Member Hunt moved to approve this Ordinance. Council Member Sellars seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

#### 7. Committee Reports and Appointments, Mayor's Report and Appointments, City Manager's Report, City Attorney's Report

Many council members reminded everyone to stay hydrated, to take breaks and stay cool in this summer heat, and to check on their neighbors. No action was taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Thrift thanked the City and Parks and Recreation for all of the activities they provide. He said, "They do an excellent job! They're such a huge asset to our city, and I'm very appreciative of that."

Council Member Williams thanked Dr. Smyre for all that she does for the citizens of Thomasville. She urged people to check out [www.visitthomasvillenc.com](http://www.visitthomasvillenc.com) to see what's happening in Thomasville. She also wished everyone a happy belated Pride Month, which happened in June.

Council Member Hunt thanked the City employees for all that they do, especially the outside staff, such as the streets and sanitation crews, who are out in this heat.

Mayor York presented a Proclamation to the THS Class of 1985. He also interviewed with Jeffrey Griffin on WSJS Radio in Winston-Salem to talk about what's going on in Thomasville.

City Manager Brandt invited everyone to join in on the last two Food Truck Fridays for lunch. He advised that the pool project is moving along well and is making good progress.

It is going to include a pool and a splash pad for people of all ages. He thanked Dr. Gentry for her time as School Superintendent and the work that she has done in the community.

City Attorney Whitman thanked City Staff for all their extra work related to the ARPA funds. She said they have gone above and beyond. She has been keeping busy and making progress, including making the initial filings for the next stages of the Kern Street property.

8. Additional Items – n/a
9. Adjournment – Council Member Sellars moved to adjourn. Council Member Williams seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*