

MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021 AT 6:00 PM AT 7003 BALLPARK ROAD, THOMASVILLE, NC.

Elected officials in attendance: Mayor Raleigh York Jr., Mayor *Pro Tem* Ron Bratton, and Council Members Neal Grimes, Joe Leonard Jane Murphy, Wendy Sellars, Pat Shelton and Hunter Thrift.

The following staff members attended the meeting: City Manager Michael Brandt; Planning Director Chuck George; Finance Director Thomas Avant; Fire Chief Eddie Bowling; Assistant Fire Chief Jason Myers; Police Chief Mark Kattner; City Attorney Misti Whitman; PC Support Specialist Damon Hartwell; and City Clerk Wendy Martin.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Raleigh York, Jr. called the meeting of the Thomasville City Council to order.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Briefing Meeting on September 13, 2021

Council Member Sellars moved that Council adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shelton. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

B. Regular Council Meeting on September 20, 2021

Council Member Grimes moved that Council adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leonard. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Brandt asked on behalf of the Personnel/Finance Committee that Council add the following item to the agenda:

9. Closed Session - Personnel

Council Member Shelton moved that Council approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thrift. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

4. RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation – Red Ribbon (Drug Prevention) Week (Oct. 23-31) was read by Council Member Bratton.

B. Proclamation – National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) was read by Council Member Sellars.

5. PUBLIC FORUM – Nobody came forward to speak.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Consideration of Resolution in Support of Project Tower

Grant Administrator Michael Walser advised Council that Project Tower (previously revealed by Governor Cooper to be Unilin Mohawk,) an existing manufacturing company in Thomasville, is proposing the expansion of their business with the new construction of a building next to their existing facility. The cost of this expansion would be about \$87,000,000 and it would bring a minimum of 87 new jobs to Thomasville.

He said the North Carolina Department of Commerce has preapproved Project Tower for a \$5,000,000 grant. This Resolution would allow the grant application to move forward. The City would be responsible for a 5% (\$25,000) match.

Council Member Shelton thanked Mr. Walser for his efforts in keeping this business here in Thomasville.

Council Member Grimes moved that Council approve the Resolution in Support of Project Tower as presented. Council Member Shelton seconded. *Motion*

unanimously approved 7 – 0.

B. Consideration of Reclassification of Positions in the Fire Department to Create a Dedicated Rescue Team

City Manager Brant explained that reclassifying six existing fire fighter positions would allow the creation of a “Rescue Division” in the Thomasville Fire Department.

Three positions would be *Rescue Captain*;
three would be *Rescue Equipment Operator* (aka “Engineer”).)

These would not be new hires, but instead they would be existing members of the current Thomasville Fire Department staff who would be given promotions to the new positions with a new pay grade. This would go into effect in January 2022 or as soon as funding is available.

Council Member Thrift moved that Council approve the Reclassification of Positions in the Fire Department to create a dedicated Rescue Team. Council Member Bratton seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

Council Members Shelton and Sellars thanked Fire Chief Eddie Bowling and his staff for creating the Rescue Team and for doing such an amazing job at the fire department.

Chief Bowling announced that there would be a ribbon cutting on October 28th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at 7000 Ball Park Road. He said all are invited to come see the Rescue teams doing demonstrations of high angle, confined space, and trench rescue.

C. Consideration of Grant Project Ordinance Appropriating Funding for the Fiscal Year 2020 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Award

Finance Director Thomas Avant asked that Council adopt this grant ordinance totaling \$88,000. He said \$80,000 of that would be federal funding. \$8,000 would be the City’s match portion. He explained that the funds would be used for the purchase and installation of two source capture systems for fire stations 22 and 24. (The other two fire departments already have these same systems.) They are air filtration systems that remove harmful particles from the workstation, produce a healthy breathing zone and satisfy air quality and compliance requirements.

Council Member Sellars moved that Council approve the Grant Project Ordinance as presented. Council Member Grimes seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

D. Consideration of Budget Amendment to Appropriate the City’s Contribution of \$8,000 to the Grant Project

Finance Director Avant said this amendment would transfer funds to the grant project.

Council Member Shelton moved that Council approve the Budget Amendment to appropriate the City’s \$8,000 contribution to the grant project. Council Member Sellars seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

E. Consideration of Budget Amendment to replace MIS Equipment Purchase to Public Works Generator Purchase for Truist Bank Equipment Financing Agreement

Finance Director Avant explained that a storage server and a replacement server for Information Systems that were previously approved were being removed from the capital equipment financing agreement with Truist, so that a more urgently needed back-up generator could be purchased for Public Works.

Council Member Shelton moved that Council approve the Budget Amendment as presented. Council Member Thrift seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7–0.*

F. Consideration of Open Burn Ordinance

Council Member Thrift moved that Council approve the Ordinance as presented. Council Member Shelton seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

G. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Chapter 42, Section 131, Floods

Council Member Leonard moved that Council approve the Ordinance as amended. Council Member Sellars seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7– 0.*

H. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Chapter 74, Section 104, Storm Drainage Improvements

Council Member Sellars moved that Council approve the Ordinance as presented. Council Member Shelton seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

I. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Chapter 87, Phase II, Stormwater Post-Construction

Council Member Shelton moved that Council approve the Ordinance as presented. Council Member Thrift seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

7. CONSENT AGENDA – City Manager Michael Brandt described the Consent Agenda items as follows:

E. Consideration of Sponsorship Agreement Davidson County

Department of Transportation Consideration of Sponsorship Agreement with Davidson County Transportation Department for adding an advertising “wrap” for one of the buses in Thomasville in the amount of \$3,000 annually for 3 years.

F. Consideration of Update of Council Rules and Procedures Consideration of updates to Council Rules and Procedures

The majority of the changes are related to updates to State law references (Section 25 Quorum), or pronoun changes – he/she for example. The most significant change is to section 9. Office of the Mayor Pro Tem. The new language makes clear that the City Council can chose its own method of election by either electing one person to serve the entire term, or keeping the current method of switching every month, or other choice that Council elects. It also establishes which meetings they are expected to attend, or find an alternate, on a monthly basis – Davidson County Commissioners, Thomasville School Board, and Thomasville Area Chamber of Commerce

G. Consideration of a Water/Waste Water rate study with Willdan Financial Services in the amount of \$35,000

The Public Utility Fund is an Enterprise Fund, which means that it needs to generate the revenues necessary for both current operations and financing of future capital projects. This study is performed every 5 years to help determine what changes there need to be for the rates.

H. Consideration of Contract with Stewart, Inc., for Special Inspections & Construction Materials Testing for Aquatic Center Project in the amount of \$39,000

These inspections are required to be done by a 3rd party, not the General Contractor, to make sure that all of the specifications are being met for certain materials during the build – such as concrete, roofing, other structural elements.

Council Member Grimes moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Leonard seconded. *Motion approved unanimously 7-0.*

8. 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) Personnel/Finance Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 2) Public Safety Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 3) Public Service Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 4) Council Briefing | 10/11/21 |
| 5) Council Meeting | 10/18/21 |

Council Member Bratton had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER NEAL GRIMES

Council Member Grimes attended the following:

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1) PACE Board | 09/22/21 |
| 2) ABC Board | 09/22/21 |
| 3) Everybody's Day | 09/25/21 |
| 4) PART Operations Committee | 09/30/21 |
| 5) Personnel/Finance Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 6) Public Safety Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 7) Public Service Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 8) PACE Shrimp Boil | 10/09/21 |
| 9) Council Briefing | 10/11/21 |
| 10) PART Board | 10/13/21 |
| 11) Council Meeting | 10/18/21 |

Council Member Grimes encouraged everyone to vote. He said the City Council provides services to the City (not social issues).

He enjoyed the shrimp boil that PACE (People Achieving Community Enhancement) put on as a fundraiser. He explained that PACE is a volunteer group that raises money to improve the appearance and activities in Thomasville's downtown business area. He said they recently fixed up the old theater on Salem Street with a new façade, a new roof, and other things. When they sell that, they'll buy another old building in the downtown to fix up.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOE LEONARD

Council Member Leonard attended the following:

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1) Personnel/Finance Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 2) Public Safety Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 3) Public Service Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 4) PACE Shrimp Boil | 10/09/21 |
| 5) Council Briefing | 10/11/21 |
| 6) PART Board | 10/13/21 |
| 7) Council Meeting | 10/18/21 |

Council Member Leonard had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER JANE MURPHY

Council Member Murphy attended the following:

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1) Personnel/Finance Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 2) Public Safety Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 3) Public Service Committee | 10/05/21 |
| 4) PACE Shrimp Boil | 10/09/21 |
| 5) Council Briefing | 10/11/21 |
| 6) PART Board | 10/13/21 |

7) Council Meeting 10/18/21

Council Member Murphy encouraged everybody to exercise their right to vote on November 2nd.

COUNCIL MEMBER WENDY SELLARS

1) Personnel/Finance Committee	10/05/21
2) Public Safety Committee	10/05/21
3) Public Service Committee	10/05/21
4) PACE Shrimp Boil	10/09/21
5) Council Briefing	10/11/21
6) PART Board	10/13/21
7) Council Meeting	10/18/21

Council Member Sellars thanked Blythe Leonard and Novant Medical Center for hosting the Pink Chair Project as a fundraiser during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Their goal of raising \$60,000 would pay for 300 mammograms for local women. She strongly encouraged women to get their mammograms regularly, because early detection saves lives.

COUNCIL MEMBER PAT SHELTON

Council Member Shelton attended the following:

1) Personnel/Finance Committee	10/05/21
2) Public Safety Committee	10/05/21
3) Public Service Committee	10/05/21
4) Council Briefing	10/11/21
5) Council Meeting	10/18/21

Council Member Shelton thanked the Thomasville Fire Department for their annual Safety Fest that helps people of all ages learn more about what to do if they have a fire in their house.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUNTER THRIFT

Council Member Thrift attended the following:

1) Personnel/Finance Committee	10/05/21
2) Public Safety Committee	10/05/21
3) Public Service Committee	10/05/21
4) PACE Shrimp Boil	10/09/21
5) Council Briefing	10/11/21
6) PART Board	10/13/21
7) Council Meeting	10/18/21

Council Member Thrift had no further report.

MAYOR YORK'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to answering emails and phone calls from various citizens and addressing their concerns, Mayor York attended the following:

1. City Council Meeting	09/20/21
2. EDC Board Meeting	09/21/21
3. Everybody's Night	09/24/21
4. Everybody's Day	09/25/21
5. Coffee Connections	09/30/21
6. Attended Crime Stoppers BBQ Chicken Dinner	10/01/21
7. Miss Thomasville Pageant	10/02/21
8. Personnel/Finance Committee	10/05/21
9. Public Safety Committee	10/05/21

10. Public Services Committee	10/05/21
11. Swearing-in of Police Officers	10/05/21
12. Recorded Campaign Speech	10/07/21
13. Attended Shrimp Boil – PACE Fund Raiser	10/09/21
14. City Council Briefing	10/11/21
15. Meet the Candidates at Ball Park Rd Community Center	10/14/21
16. City Council Meeting	10/18/21

Mayor York thanked the Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Commission for putting on Everybody's Day and Everybody's Night, respectively. He said they were great events that were well attended.

He congratulated the new Miss Thomasville, Lilly Beaver. She was also Miss Thomasville's Outstanding Teen in 2019.

Over 120 golfers participated in the Mayor's Cup this year. He thanked MedTrans for providing him and City Manager Michael Brandt with a helicopter ride over Thomasville. They sponsored that ride and one more, which was raffled off and raised a few hundred dollars for the charity.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Manager Brandt added his thanks to those who participated in the Novant Health Foundation's effort to create a fund for breast cancer screening.

He said the Parks & Recreation Department is very busy this time of year. He would be participating in a pumpkin-carving event at the Farmers Market on October 21st. On Saturday, October 23rd, there would also be a drive-in movie at Cushwa Stadium featuring the Adams Family Movie free to those who registered ahead of time.

He announced that the Thomasville Fire & Rescue Department had upgraded its rescue services and would have a ribbon cutting with equipment demonstrations on Thursday, October 28, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at Station 24, 7000 Ball Park Road.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Attorney Whitman advised that letters went out to some residents near the Kern Street School to let them know what the City is planning regarding that fire site. She has been looking into having the City or a third party obtain title to that property so matters can be resolved there.

She has also kept busy with record requests, personnel matters, engineering easements and a lot of PR. The City notified certain residents that the City Council took action and passed new ordinances regarding flooding in Thomasville, which was stimulated by their concerns.

9. Closed Session – Personnel

Council Member Shelton moved that Council go into closed session. Council Member Sellars seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

No action was taken in closed session.

10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT – Council Member Murphy moved to adjourn. Council Member Sellars seconded the motion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*



Raleigh York, Jr.
 Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor

Wendy S. Martin
 Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk