

MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL BRIEFING MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 AT 4:00 PM AT 7003 BALLPARK ROAD, THOMASVILLE, NC.

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

The following staff members attended the meeting: City Manager Michael Brandt, Assistant City Manager Eddie Bowling, Finance Director Thomas Avant, Planning Director Chuck George, Utilities Director Morgan Huffman, Recreation Director Cory Tobin and City Clerk Wendy Martin.

1. Call to Order - Mayor York called the Briefing meeting of the Thomasville City Council to order.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda – City Manager Brandt asked that Council add the following items to the regular agenda on April 17, 2023:
 - A. Consideration of Resolution of Support for NCDEQ State Revolving Grant/Loan Program for 2023 Waterline Improvement Project
 - B. Consideration of Equal Employment Plan, Equal Procurement Plan, Section 504 Plan, Section 3 Plan, Language Access Plan, Fair Housing Plan, and Analysis of Impediments Plan re: CDBG - NR Grant for 11 Pine Street

Council Member Hunt moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Shell seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 5 – 0.*

3. Recognitions and Presentations – to be presented on April 17, 2023.
 - A. Proclamation: Week of the Student Leader (April 24-28, 2023)
 - B. Proclamation: Public Health Month (April 2023)
 - C. Proclamation: Lions Brighter Vision Day (May 4, 2023)
4. Public Forum – A public forum will be held at the Council Meeting on *April 17, 2023*. Sign up sheets will be provided at the meeting.
5. Public Hearing – on April 17, 2023:

CDBG - NR Environmental Review for 11 Pine Street Redevelopment
(Public Comment Only – No Action Required)

6. Regular Agenda on April 10, 2023

- A. Consideration of Salary Increase for City Council Members

Council Member Bratton said that last year the City Council voted to increase the Mayor's salary to \$10,000. He said it had been many years since the City Council received raises. He moved to increase City Council's salary to \$9,000 a year so that it would be \$1,000 less than the Mayor's salary.

Council Members Williams and Sellars both said that was too much.

City Manager Brandt explained that Council's current salary was \$6,326 annually. They hadn't received a raise since 2008. If they were given cumulative COLA increases equal to what employees have received since that time, it would total \$8,413. That's a 33% raise. He added that the average salary for cities with 24,000 citizens was about \$6,869 and cities with 25,999 citizens is \$10,000. Thomasville has just over 27,000 residents.

Council Member Sellars suggested that Council just get the same percentage of COLA increases as the employees starting this year.

Council Member Williams asked that Council wait until the results of the Pay Study come back. She wanted to take the employees into consideration first.

Council Member Bratton said the City Council has always taken the employees into consideration. They have given them COLA raises almost every year; they voted to give employees bonuses with the ARPA funds last year; and they would be voting on a \$1,200 retention bonus next week. They hadn't given themselves a raise in 15 years.

Council Members Hunt, Shell and Sellars agreed to \$8,413.

Council Member Bratton revised his motion to request an increase in Thomasville City Council salary to \$8,413 annually. Council Member Hunt seconded. *Motion approved 4 – 1* with Council Member Williams voting against the raise.

Finance Director Avant confirmed that this would add \$16,500 to the coming year's budget expenses.

City Manager Brandt advised Council that if they wanted to start receiving COLA raises, they would have to amend the current policy.

The following items were put on the Consent Agenda by the Council members for consideration on April 17, 2023:

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – Briefing Meeting on 03/13/2023
- B. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – Council Meeting on 03/20/2023
- C. Consideration of Budget Amendment (2023-P10-01)
- D. Consideration of Resolution of Support for Piedmont Legacy Trails
- E. Consideration of Resolution of Commitment to the NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center to Participate in the Downtown Associate Community Program IF Selected
- F. Consideration of Resolution of Support for NCDEQ State Revolving Grant/Loan Program for 2023 Waterline Improvement Project

Utilities Director Huffman explained that this Resolution is required by the State to apply for funding for water lines. He said this is for an \$8.1M grant/loan to fund 17,500' of water lines on 16 different road sections that have undersized lines.

There was some discussion about Cox Avenue. Mr. Huffman said that Cox was not included in this round. He added that ARPA funds threw off the normal course of replacing water lines. City Manager Brandt asked that he include Cox Avenue ASAP. Mr. Huffman said one block of Cox needs a new main installed. He would make sure the rest of Cox got connected to it.

Council Member Williams asked what the estimated timeline was for this project. Mr. Huffman said the construction could be complete as soon as June 2024.

- G. Consideration of Equal Employment Plan, Equal Procurement Plan, Section 504 Plan, Section 3 Plan, Language Access Plan, Fair Housing Plan, and Analysis of Impediments Plan re: CDBG - NR Grant for 11 Pine Street

Assistant City Manager Eddie Bowling said PTRC wrote these plans to make sure that every State requirement is met, including:

- i. Equal Employment Plan
- ii. Equal Procurement Plan
- iii. Section 504 Plan (without discrimination)
- iv. Section 3 Plan (equal opportunities for lower income residents)

- v. Language Access Plan (equal opportunities for residents who don't speak English)
- vi. Fair Housing Plan (equal, equitable housing for all)
- vii. Analysis of Impediments Plan

The following items were put on the Regular Agenda by the Council members for consideration on April 17, 2023:

8. Regular Agenda

- A. Consideration of Award of Contract to Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Purchase of Police Department Body and Car Cameras
 - B. Consideration of Approval of Contract Between City of Thomasville and HiToms for Use of City Facilities
 - C. Consideration of Amendment to City Ordinance - Appendix A, Zoning, Article V, Section 3, Note 22. Flea Markets/Open air sales
 - D. Consideration of Amendment to City Ordinance - Chapter 46, Article II, Section 46-34. Offensive Conditions on Private Property
 - E. Consideration of Ordinance of Condemnation for 200 Kern Street; Pneuma Pentecostal Church of Deliverance, Inc. Property Owner
 - F. Consideration of Ordinance of Condemnation for 207 Brown Street; Filetha & Letonya Hackley, Property Owner
 - G. Consideration of Ordinance of Condemnation for 306 Martin Luther King Drive; Rosa Mae Oliver, Property Owner
 - H. Consideration of Resolution Amending the Thomasville Police Personnel Policy
9. Committee Reports and Appointments, Mayor's Report and Appointments, City Manager's Report, City Attorney's Report – to be presented on April 17, 2023.
10. Additional Items – N/A
11. Adjournment – Council Member Sellars moved to adjourn. Council Member Williams seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 5 – 0.*



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

Wendy S. Martin
Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk