

CITY OF THOMASVILLE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

7003 Ball Park Road, Thomasville, NC 27360

Mayor Raleigh York, Jr. ~ Mayor *Pro Tem* Payton Williams

Elected officials in attendance: Mayor Raleigh York, Jr.; Mayor *Pro Tempore* Payton Williams; and Council Members Ron Bratton; Doug Hunt; Wendy Sellars; Lisa Shell; Hunter Thrift and Payton Williams. Council Member Jeannette Shepherd had an excused absence. City Attorney Misti Whitman was also absent.

1. Call to Order – Mayor York called the meeting of the Thomasville City Council to order and welcomed everyone in person and online.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda. Council Member Sellars moved to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Hunt seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*
3. Public Forum – No one came forward to speak.
4. Public Hearing re: Closure of Portion of Lake Road

City Manager Brandt explained that a request had been made to close an unused and abandoned portion of Lake Road. He said this section of road had not been used since the development of I-85 in the 1970s. The owner of the parcel of land on both sides of the right-of-way requested this to be permanently abandoned and absorbed by the adjacent property. This would not impact the currently existing Lake Road.

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 Hunt moved to approve the closure of the portion of Lake Road. Council Member Shell seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

5. Consent Agenda - City Manager Brandt explained each of the items as follows:
 - A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – Briefing Meeting on 12/12/22
 - B. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – Council Meeting on 12/19/22
 - C. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Thomasville City Ordinance Chapter 82 – Utilities - Adding Sections 82.17, 82-18, 82-19, and 82-20 Regarding Utility Easement Encroachments

Adoption of the proposed changes provides more enforcement tools to allow access to city easements for water and sanitary sewer. City staff are required to be able to access easements for maintenance and repairs, and to keep the easements accessible by removing obstructions.

- D. Consideration of Fiscal Year 2022 Audit Contract – Martin Starnes & Associates
Our annual audit contract requires Council approval

The FY 2023 cost is \$60,000 (\$5,000 increase from Previous Year); Per the agreement, MSA will complete our annual external audit and prepare our audited financial statements; The total cost of \$60,000 was provided by MSA in our 5-year renewal letter, which was provided to Council last fiscal year.

- E. Consideration of General Fund Budget Amendment 2023 - P7 – 01

The amendment appropriates \$1,653 in insurance proceeds in the Public Works Department for damage to a garbage truck; transfers \$24,750 in the Police Dept. to fund consultant costs to assist in the search for a new Police Chief. Finally, the amendment appropriates \$35,000 from General Fund contingency to fund an employee salary and classification study. General Fund contingency balance is

now \$241,323 (after the appropriation).

F. Consideration of Contract with Piedmont Triad Regional Council for Employee Salary & Classification Study

The City has not performed an employee salary and classification study for over 15 years. We know that there are pay issues within the organization, with pressure from inflation and higher private sector pay and job opportunities. Piedmont Triad Council of Governments has performed these types of studies for many local governments over the years and have significant experience in this work.

G. Consideration of Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Calendar

The proposed calendar establishes the dates/times and locations of Personnel/Finance and City Council meetings related to the budget development process and approval. These dates will be posted on the City's website.

H. Consideration of Personnel Policy Amendment Article XVIII, Adding Sections 14 and 15 Regarding Hiring Incentives for New Employees

City Administration is proposing two temporary hiring incentive programs to encourage applications for open positions. The first incentive program is for all positions, and open to all current full-time employees. It provides an incentive bonus if an employee recommends a new employee and the new employee remain with the City through their probationary period. The second incentive program is for lateral-entry police officers. This program provides a hiring bonus of \$3,000 if the new Police Officer remains on the force for at least 18 months.

I. Consideration of No Parking Ordinance for portion of Walnut Street

Due to complaints of residents and concerns for emergency traffic to access Walnut Street; the TPD has recommended that no parking be allowed along the south side of Walnut Street between Fisher Ferry Road and Center Street.

J. Consideration of Changes to Calendar Meeting Schedule

Due to supply chain delays for the installation of the Audio/Visual equipment in the new City Council Chambers at the Thomasville Aquatic & Community Center, City Council will hold their regular meetings (3rd Monday) here at 7003 Ball Park Road Community Center until at least April. This will ensure that we are able to broadcast the regular meetings. However, the Committee and Briefing meetings, starting in February, will be held at 20 Stadium Drive, the new Thomasville Aquatic and Community Center. This schedule will be updated on the City website.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Sellars seconded. Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.

6. Regular Agenda

A. Consideration of Contract with Developmental Associates LLC for Police Chief Hiring Process

Assistant City Manager Bowling explained that Developmental Associates has a long history of successful placements in over 40 agencies across North Carolina. They would handle the process from start to finish. They will perform three discussion sessions at the police department, and there will also be a public input session, online and in person. They'll carry the process through recruitment and consultations with the successfully hired candidate.

Council Member Hunt moved to approve this contract. Council Member Sellars seconded. Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.

B. Consideration of Personnel Policy Amendment Article XI, Adding Section 7 Car Allowance for Certain Employees

City Manager Brandt said this proposed change will provide for a car allowance for the Assistant City Manager at a rate established by City Council.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve this personnel policy. Council Member Hunt seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

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

Council Member Williams quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and said, "I hope yesterday everybody had a chance to think about the legacy of Dr. King and how he changed our nation."

She thanked the police and fire departments for keeping everyone safe during the big structure fire. She also thanked the construction and maintenance team and the public utilities team for getting us through the recent cold snap.

Council Member Sellars is currently planning the 2023 Black History Month program, and she asked that people lend her exhibits for the display.

Council Member Bratton attended the MLK Celebration at First Missionary Baptist Church. The pastor from Unity Baptist Church was a dynamic speaker, and the High Point University Choir performed. It was a great celebration.

He also announced with a heavy heart that retired Fire Fighter Levi Mashore, a long-time employee for the City of Thomasville, passed away. His arrangements had not yet been announced.

Mayor York announced that the purchase of 305 East Main Street has been finalized, providing much needed parking and office space for city staff.

He attended the retirement reception of Assistant Fire Chief Don Crafford. He congratulated him and wished him well.

He also attended some MLK Celebration Events, including the Oratoracle Contest on Saturday evening, and the Holiday Celebration Observance last night, where he presented a Proclamation.

Mayor York appointed Jennifer Nixon to the Cemetery Committee.

City Manager Brandt thanked the police officers who investigated a shooting over the holidays. He said, "In very short order, the TPD had identified a potential vehicle and occupants, investigated the event, determined that at least one suspect had fled the area, and, working with Greenville, NC PD, were able to make an arrest of an adult and two juveniles. Specifically, Officer Lomba observed a vehicle matching a witness description; Officer Harris provided information to identify juveniles involved in this matter; Detectives Clodfelter and Amos located the suspect vehicle; and the entire CID unit worked countless hours over the New Year's holiday and through the week to solve this case. A job well done. I appreciate it."


He also advised that on Tuesday, January 24, the Parks & Recreation staff would be hosting an Open House to consider ideas for the redevelopment of the "Plant B" site on Fisher Ferry Road. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM at Bethel UMC Family Life Center located at 508 Fisher Ferry Street. Everyone is welcome to attend and see preliminary plans and maps and to provide input into the future development of the site. The City will be seeking grants to provide funding for the project, and it is important to get community input and feedback to make sure we are developing the site to support the community.

Assistant City Manager Bowling thanked Council for approving the contract with Developmental Associates. He said it will help us move forward with finding a new police chief. He encouraged citizens to attend the public input session on February 2nd at 5:00 PM at the Thomasville Police Department. He said, "It will give community members the opportunity to come out to speak about qualities that are important to them with regard to policing in our community."

He advised that we are one week into the employee survey, and we have had a tremendous response already. We look forward to getting the report back in March and to great things ahead.

8. Additional Items – n/a
9. Adjournment – Council Member Sellars moved to adjourn. *Mayor Pro Tem Williams* seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*


Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor


Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk