

**MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022 AT 6:00 PM AT 7003 BALLPARK ROAD, THOMASVILLE, NC.**

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

The following staff members attended the meeting: City Manager Michael Brandt; Assistant City Manager Eddie Bowling; City Attorney Misti Whitman; Police Chief Mark Kattner; Assistant MIS Director Damon Hartwell; PC Technician James Raulston; and City Clerk Wendy Martin

1. Call to Order – Mayor *Pro Tempore* Lisa Shell 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 the following to the agenda:

*3.C. Proclamation - Gun Violence Awareness Day*

*7.A. Resolution to Dissolve the Multicultural Committee*

Council Member Shepherd asked that the following items be removed from the agenda and get sent back to Council Committees in June for further discussion:

*7.D. Consideration of Grant Project Ordinance: ARPA Funds*

*7.F. Consideration of Amendment to Personnel Policy to Add 3 New Positions: Police Trainee, Police Records Supervisor and Downtown Economic Development Director*

Council Member Thrift moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Hunt seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

3. Recognitions and Presentations

- A. Recognition of Meritorious Service of Master Police Officers Jonathan Caldwell and Michael Vogler and Corporal Joseph Sutton - presented by Council Member Bratton

Body cam video footage was shown of these three heroic officers going into a burning building to rescue two people who were trapped inside. Copies of the awards are on file with the City Clerk's office and are available upon request.

Council Member Bratton said it was his honor to recognize these officers. He said, "This is an example of officers going above and beyond to save someone's life. Thank you very much. I'm so proud."

- B. Proclamation – National Public Works Week - presented by Mayor *Pro Tem* Shell

- C. Proclamation - Gun Violence Awareness Day - presented by Council Member Sellars

Council Member Sellars asked Linda Melton to tell people about the event she would be holding in Thomasville for Gun Violence Awareness Day. Ms. Melton said she lost her son to gun violence in 2020. In order to heal, she created an annual Gun Violence Awareness Day event. This year, it will be held at Doak Park on June 4, 2022 from 1:00 – 6:00 PM. Guest speakers will be talking about gun violence education and awareness. She said, "If we can save one life off the street, we've done a lot... Come have a hamburger, a hotdog, and a conversation."

4. Public Forum – City Attorney Misti Whitman explained that each person could speak for two minutes on any topic they choose, but Council would not be able to respond.

Kelly Johnson suggested that the former Police Department building be used as a Driving Center that offers driver's ed, second-chance driving classes, NC DMV

testing and licensing, and CDL training. She asked to be included in any group discussions regarding the future of the PD building.

Greg Myers, Amy Coleman, Jacquez Johnson, and Fay Ashworth spoke in opposition to the dissolution of the Multicultural Committee. Dr. Myers said that he wanted others to get the same chances he had growing up. Ms. Coleman said she wanted a place where everyone felt they mattered. Mr. Johnson, the Committee's Chairman, asked Council to keep the group together in support of equity, diversity and inclusion. Dr. Ashworth asked that the committee be allowed to continue for a probationary year so it could finish what it had started.

No action was taken.

5. Public Hearing - Request for Rezoning (Z-22-02)

Applicant: Board of Planning & Adjustment  
Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance  
Appendix A – Zoning, Article V, Sec. 3A, Note 12, and  
Add Note 14. (Landscape buffer yard and screening requirements)

City Manager Brandt explained that the Planning and Zoning Board requested an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to provide additional buffer areas between residential and commercial districts. They voted on the revisions put forth by Council last month, and they voted 6 – 1 in favor of a 15' landscape buffer yard.

Mayor *Pro Tem* Shell opened the Public Hearing. No one came forward to speak for or against this issue. Mayor *Pro Tem* Shell closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Hunt moved to approve the rezoning as presented. Council Member Shepherd seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

6. Consent Agenda – City Manager Brandt reviewed these items as follows:

A. Approval of Minutes of the Briefing Meeting on 04/11/22

B. Approval of Minutes of the Council Meeting on 04/18/22

C. Consideration of Grant Project Ordinance: One NC Fund Grant – BrassCraft Mfg.

-The N.C. Dept. of Commerce has awarded the City a \$200,000 One NC Fund Grant for distribution to BrassCraft Manufacturing Company, a manufacturer of rough plumbing products, located at 1024 Randolph Street.

-Grant proceeds are to be used for installation or purchase of equipment; structural repairs, improvements, or renovations to existing buildings to be used for expansion; construction of or improvements to new or existing water, sewer, gas, or electric utility distribution lines or equipment for existing buildings, or for new or proposed buildings to be used for manufacturing and industrial operations.

-The company intends to create 96 new jobs and invest \$13,350,000 in the project.

-The ordinance appropriates the \$200,000 grant award for construction improvements.

-The required match is 50% (\$100,000), which is paid to the company; however, the local economic development tax incentives agreed upon by Council will serve as the city's match.

D. Consideration of Grant Project Ordinance: NC Dept. of Commerce Grant – Nucor Steel

- Nucor Corporation, a producer of steel and related products based in Charlotte, is opening a new manufacturing facility in Davidson County, along U.S. 64. The company is the largest steel producer in the U.S.
- The company is investing \$310 million and will create 180 new jobs; paying above the county's average wage (\$99,660 in annual salaries; more than twice the county average).
- As part of the incentive agreement, the City of Thomasville must extend sewer and water to the site. The sewer extension is estimated at \$2,100,000, and the water extension is estimated at \$100,000.
- This ordinance appropriates a total of \$825,000 from the N.C. Dept. of Commerce Industrial Development Fund Utility Account for the public sewer extension to the plant. It also includes a \$275,000 contribution from Nucor to the city for the full cost of the water extension (\$100,000) and a portion of the sewer connection cost (\$175,000), as well as a \$41,250 contribution from Nucor for the administration of the grant award (5% of total award from N.C. Dept. of Commerce)

E. Consideration of Grant Project Ordinance: Golden LEAF Foundation – Nucor Steel

- The Golden LEAF Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1999 to receive a portion of North Carolina's funding received from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement with cigarette manufacturers. Golden LEAF works to increase economic opportunity in North Carolina's rural and tobacco-dependent communities through leadership in grant making, collaboration, innovation, and stewardship as an independent and perpetual foundation.
- The grant award provides \$1,100,000 to the City of Thomasville for the remaining cost of the city's public sewer extension to serve Nucor.
- The term of the grant is 12 months, but Golden LEAF may extend the term of the grant.
- The ordinance also appropriates a \$55,000 contribution (5% of grant award) from Nucor for the administration of the grant.
- Release of Golden LEAF funds is contingent upon the city entering into an incentive agreement with the state that includes the performance requirements the company must achieve to receive the incentives provided by the state for the project.

F. Consideration of Amendment to Rules and Procedures Manual Giving the Mayor Authority to Amend the Mayor Pro Tempore of the Month

This amendment clarifies the authority of the Mayor to select and/or switch the Mayor Pro Tempore when a Councilmember is unable to fulfill their duties in any given month.

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

7. Regular Agenda

A. Resolution to Dissolve the Multicultural Committee

City Attorney Whitman said the Thomasville City Council approved the formation of the Chair City Multicultural Committee on or about October 15, 2012. The purpose of the committee was to establish an annual multicultural event and hold other related activities that embrace diverse groups and promote understanding of these groups. The group should have held at least one annual community multicultural event with various arts, music, food, dance, and presented educational materials to facilitate the community's understanding of the diverse cultures of those residing within Thomasville. The members of this

committee were to include PTA Presidents or designees, a representative from Parks and Recreation, and other community volunteers.

She said that over the past several years, the Multicultural Committee has deviated from the primary mission of promoting and embracing all of the community's cultures and has expressed interest in focusing on a more narrowly tailored group of cultures. She added that the Thomasville City Council recognizes the importance of the work being done by the current committee members and desire to allow the committee members to continue their work independently, so as not to be bound by the mission set forth by the Thomasville City Council.

She explained that this Resolution would "dissolve the Chair City Multicultural Committee, effective immediately, and allow the members of the committee to form their own group to promote their interests as they see appropriate."

Council Member Thrift moved to approve this Resolution to dissolve the Multicultural Committee. Council Member Sellars seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

B. Budget Message was presented by City Manager Michael Brandt. He said,

"It is my pleasure to formally present the City of Thomasville's recommended Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget for your review and consideration. The document serves as a resource allocation plan that meets the requirements of Section 159-11 of the North Carolina General Statutes by being balanced and prepared under the principles and rules of the Local Government Budget & Fiscal Control Act and the City's Fiscal Policy currently in effect. The proposed tax rate is \$0.62 per \$100 of assessed valuation, the same as last year.

The budget presented is balanced in the amount of \$48,444,175. It is allocated as follows:

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund                          | \$30,758,777        |
| Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund           | \$14,514,968        |
| Winding Creek Golf Course Fund        | \$989,175           |
| Storm Water Management Fund           | \$103,380           |
| General Capital Reserve Fund          | \$0                 |
| Water/Sewer Capital Reserve Fund      | \$0                 |
| School Fund                           | \$1,918,375         |
| Police Restitution & Forfeitures Fund | \$100,400           |
| Beautification Fund                   | \$45,100            |
| Cemetery Fund                         | \$14,000            |
| Reservoir Fund                        | \$0                 |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$48,444,175</b> |

Thomasville is blessed with a strong and loyal workforce that truly wants to provide its citizens with quality services. The budget, if fully implemented, provides the resources necessary for them to maintain, and even expand, service levels our citizens have come to expect. I look forward to working with Council and staff as we serve the citizens of Thomasville.

While this budget is the proposal of the City Manager, it is neither final nor necessarily a reflection of what will be approved by the City Council. Once adopted, the budget may be amended by City Council at any regular or special meeting. The Mayor and Council will review the recommended budget and receive comments at a public hearing scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM in temporary council chambers located at Ball Park Community Center, 7003 Ball Park Road, Thomasville, NC 27360.

I would like to thank the City Council, Department Managers, and staff for their hard work and support while developing this budget. I especially want to thank

Thomas Avant, Finance Director, and Eric Krpejs, Assistant Finance Director, for the many hours of work they have undertaken to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this budget document.

The proposed budget has been filed with the City Clerk for public viewing. In addition, a budget summary will be available on the City's website" at [www.Thomasville-NC.gov](http://www.Thomasville-NC.gov), beginning May 17, 2022.

Council Member Williams called for a public hearing regarding the proposed Budget on June 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM at 7003 Ball Park Road, Thomasville, NC. Council Member Hunt seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

C. Consideration of Ordinance to Enact Chapter 70, Article VI: Social District

City Attorney Whitman explained that the State of North Carolina has passed legislation allowing municipalities to have Social Districts. This ordinance would bring Thomasville's local laws into compliance with State Laws. This would allow for a social district only within the area indicated on the map which is attached to the ordinance, which is basically on Main Street from Trade Street to Commerce Street and Craver Street to Fisher Ferry.

She said, "The Social District would not allow for the consumption of alcoholic beverages up and down the street." All this would do is to allow any restaurant within the Social District that has sidewalk seating to permit their customers to dine and have alcoholic beverages at their location, if they have obtained the appropriate signage, cups, insurance and permitting as required by State law.

Council Member Shepherd stated that she did not think it would reflect well on the City of Thomasville to have a Social District, because families with small children walk up and down the streets, and they would see the people drinking alcohol.

Council Member Hunt moved to approve this Ordinance. Council Member Williams seconded. *Motion approved 5 – 1 with Council Member Shepherd voting against it.*

D. Consideration of Ordinance to Enact Chapter 70, Article VII: Sidewalk Dining

City Attorney Whitman explained that there are some businesses in Thomasville that are already offering seating on City sidewalks. Since the State has enacted new legislation regarding sidewalk dining, however, Thomasville needs this ordinance to be in compliance with State law, and restaurants will have to apply and comply with the State requirements to be able to have sidewalk dining.

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

E. Consideration of Budget Amendment for the General Fund; Water/Sewer Utility Fund; School Fund; and Golf Fund

Assistant City Manager Eddie Bowling

Council Member Thrift moved to approve this Budget Amendment. Council Member Williams seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

F. Consideration of Express Cab Taxi Franchise

City Manager Brandt advised that State law requires an annual franchise be issued for taxi companies. Express Cab has met all requirements for vehicle inspections, and there are no known complaints against the company.

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

This matter must be voted on again next month, pursuant to State Statutes.


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

On behalf of the Personnel/Finance Committee, Council Member Thrift moved to appoint Scott Styers to the Recreation Committee to fill Stacey Kinley's seat. Council Member Hunt seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.* No further action was taken.

9. Closed Session – Attorney/Client. Council Member Thrift moved to go into closed session for an attorney client matter. Council Member Hunt seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.* No action was taken in closed session.

10. Additional Items – Assistant City Manager Eddie Bowling advised everyone to text "TVILLEVENTS" to 888777 if they would like to be texted local event information.

11. Adjournment – Council Member Sellars moved to adjourn. Council Member Shepherd seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

  
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Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor

  
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Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk