

MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT 20 STADIUM DRIVE, THOMASVILLE, NC.

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

6. Call to Order - Mayor York called the Council meeting of the Thomasville City Council to order.
7. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda - City Manager Michael Brandt requested that Council remove item 4. A. *Request for Rezoning (Z-23-03) Appeal*, per a request from the owner of the property.

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

6. Public Forum – No one came forward to speak.

7. Public Hearings

- A. Request for Rezoning (Z-23-03) Appeal – This was removed from the agenda upon request of the property owner.

- B. Request for Rezoning (Z-23-04)

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|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Applicant: | City of Thomasville |
| Owner: | Coltrane Properties of the Triad, LLC |
| Location: | 345 Hasty School Road |
| Parcel Number: | 1631400000013A |
| Existing Zoning: | R-10 Low Density Residential |
| Requested Zoning: | R-10M Low Density Residential & Mobile Home Parks |

The Planning Board held a public hearing on May 30, 2023 and voted unanimously 7-0 to approve this request.

Planning Director George said this property was annexed into Thomasville in 1988. The owner contends that this property was always zoned as R-10M, so he was concerned that our records currently have this property zoned as R-10. Mr. George wasn't able to find any paperwork classifying the property as R-10M, so he asked Council to change the property to R-10M to reflect the use it has been for over 50 years.

Mayor York opened the public hearing.

Donald Coltrane, owner, spoke for this rezoning. He said that this mobile home park was built back in the 1950's or 60's. When he purchased the property, it was zoned R-10M. Somehow, over the years, the 'M' was taken off. He asked that Council fix this, so that he could sell the property as a mobile home park someday.

No one came forward to speak against this rezoning. Mayor York closed the public hearing.

Council Member Hunt moved to approve this rezoning because:

- It is consistent with the use of the site, as it was annexed from the County;
- It does not conflict with the adjacent properties in any way;
- Rezoning would prohibit all activity of a commercial nature; and
- It is reasonable and in the public interest due to its consistency with the comprehensive plan and, as a result, its furtherance of the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan.

Council Member Thrift seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

8. Consent Agenda – City Manager Brandt described each item as follows:

- A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – Briefing Meeting on 05/08/2023

- B. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – Council Meeting on 05/15/2023

C. Consideration of Real Estate Transfer Agreement with Bob & Maureen DaCosta

This agreement transfers approximately 1,000 sq. ft. of property from the DeCostas for approximately 400 sq. feet of City property located in the rear parking lot and adjacent alley behind City Hall. Also in exchange, the City will install approximately 60 ft. of fence along new property line, which will be transferred to the DeCostas when this is complete.

D. Consideration of Resolution to Amend the Personnel Policies of the City of Thomasville: Article XII, Section 12, Article XIII, Section 19 – Worker's Compensation

These amendments will bring the City's Worker's Compensation policies in line with State law General Statute 97.

E. Consideration of Resolution to Amend the Personnel Policies of the City of Thomasville: Appendix C - Dependent Health Insurance Coverage

This amendment creates a provision within the Personnel Policies for the City Council to adopt rates for dependent health insurance coverage annually as part of the City Budget. This is an effort to help with recruitment and retention of employees by providing a lower rate for dependent health insurance coverage.

F. Consideration of Thomasville City School Athletic Field Usage Agreement

This agreement is for Cushwa Field, Finch Field, and Doak Park for high school and middle school athletics. This is a 3-year contract. The first year will cost TCS a \$16,000 rental fee; the second year will be \$18,000; the third year will be \$20,000. The City School Board has already approved this contract.

G. Consideration of School Resource Officer Agreement with Thomasville City Schools

This is a 3-year agreement with a price that is dependent upon the officer assigned to the school's salary over the next three years. The School Board will vote on this next week.

Council Member Sellars moved to approve all the items on the consent agenda. Council Member Shepherd seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

9. Regular Agenda

A. Consideration of Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Ordinance and Rate Schedules

Finance Director Thomas Avant said the annual budget ordinance authorizes appropriations for the operations of the City government for the fiscal year by fund and at the department and division level. It also details the expected revenues by fund available for the fiscal year to meet these appropriations. The budget ordinance must be adopted by July 1st to authorize spending in the new year.

The fiscal year 2024 Budget Ordinance totals \$49,526,223. It authorizes a tax rate of \$0.62 per \$100 of taxable property value in the General Fund. This is no change from the prior year.

It authorizes a School Supplement Tax rate of \$0.195 per \$100 of taxable property value. This is also no change from the prior year.

It levies a municipal vehicle tax of \$20 per registered motor vehicle. This is a \$10 increase from the prior year. Revenue generated from this increase will be used for City street maintenance, resurfacing and paving.

Budget and property tax revenues are based on a 97% rate of collection in the General Fund and an 88% rate of collection in the School Fund. Included in the FY

2024 Budget Ordinance is a 15% pay increase for City Council. This is a pay increase of \$949 per member, bringing each Council Member's annual salary to \$7,275.

The Budget Ordinance and Departmental Rate Schedules were voted on by roll call vote as required by law.

Council Member Hunt moved to approve this Budget Ordinance. Council Member Sellars seconded.

Council Member Thrift thanked Mr. Avant and the Finance staff for all their work on the budget. He said he would be voting against the budget because of the Council pay increase, but he said, "That was no fault of our staff. You guys put together an excellent budget."

Roll Call Vote:

For: Doug Hunt, Wendy Sellars, Lisa Shell, Jeannette Shepherd & Payton Williams

Against: Hunter Thrift

Motion approved by roll call vote of 5 to 1.

B. Consideration of Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 General Fund Budget Amendment # 2023-P12-01

Finance Director Avant said this budget amendment appropriates insurance proceeds totaling \$6,311 from a police automobile accident and a \$1,143 payment from the N.C. Dept. of Insurance to the Fire Dept. as reimbursement for the cost of protecting state property in Thomasville. The amendment also appropriates \$15,000 of surplus green fee revenue to cover any potential budget deficits in the Golf Course Fund.

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

C. Consideration of Resolutions Awarding Badges and Service Side Arms to Retiring Law Enforcement Officers Sgt. James Shores and Lt. Jason Baity

Police Chief Dustin Carter asked that Council award Sgt. James Shores and Lt. Jason Baity their badges and service side arms as set forth by North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2.

Council Member Sellars moved to approve these resolutions. Council Member Shell seconded.

Mayor York thanked both officers for their careers with the City of Thomasville and for the work that they did while they were here. He said, "We appreciate them and wish them well in their retirement."

Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.

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

Council Member Hunt thanked Council Member Thrift and the Memorial Day Committee for all the hard work they put into the Memorial Day parade and festivities.

Council Member Thrift moved to appoint Andrew Clement to the Hotel/Motel seat on the Tourism Commission and to fill Mr. Clement's at-large seat for the remainder of that term with Joe Gray, Sr. Council Member Hunt Seconded. *Motion unanimously*

approved 6 – 0.

Council Member Thrift also moved to extend the terms of Cheraton Love and Renee Dow on the appointed School Board until the installation of the elected School Board members. Council Member Sellars Seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

Council Member Sellars thanked City Clerk Wendy Martin for her work in organizing a successful Food Drive and for understanding that we have individuals in our community who need that service desperately.

Council Member Williams asked everyone to recognize and celebrate the contributions and diversity that we have in our community. She also expressed her excitement and thanks to everyone who helped build the beautiful new aquatic center facility. She hopes everyone gets a change to enjoy it this summer.

Mayor York reported that he attended a State Legislative Update with our local representatives, a breakfast in honor of our hard-working Public Works Department during Public Works Week, and the wonderful Memorial Day festivities that honored those we have lost and their families. He swore in the new Police Chief Dustin Carter. He also attended the Hi-Tom's All-Stars Night at Finch Field, where nine of our community members were honored as Unsung Heroes. He added that he and several others met with the staff from the NC Main Street Program.

City Manager Brandt reported that Thomasville is in the final running for being selected as a Downtown Affiliate Member of the Main Street Program. If selected in early July, the NC Main Street staff would work with City staff, PACE and other groups to develop a plan of action for economic vitality and strategic planning. Over a 2-year period, we would work to refine our program so that we could be accepted as one of NC's Main Street Communities. There are only 54 of them right now, and they will only be choosing 2 affiliate members this year. He said, "This is a fairly competitive event, and it's very important to demonstrate the sustainability of our downtown moving forward." He thanked Council for funding this project.

He also reported that the Aquatic Center had a power outage during a storm on Friday that resulted in damages to the pump system. The pool was shut down for many days while waiting for parts to arrive, but it would open again very soon.

He advised that the City honored the Juneteenth Holiday officially this year for the first time in its history. He said, "Juneteenth is a celebration of the news carried to Texas in June 1865 that President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed the remaining enslaved population. This event brought the United States ever closer to fulfilling the Declaration of Independence's writing that "All men are Created Equal." I am very proud of Council for adopting this holiday in our city and allowing for the employees to have off to celebrate as they will, and more importantly, to recognize the importance of this holiday to all members of our community."

11. Additional Items – N/A

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



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

Wendy S. Martin
Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk