

MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 AT 6:00 PM AT 7003 BALLPARK ROAD, THOMASVILLE, NC AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM.

Elected officials in attendance in person: Mayor Raleigh York, Jr.; Mayor *Pro Tempore* Joe Leonard, and Council Members Ron Bratton, Neal Grimes, Pat Shelton and D. Hunter Thrift. Elected officials in attendance by Zoom: Council Member Jane Murphy. Council Member Wendy Sellars had an excused absence.

The following staff members attended the meeting: City Manager Michael Brandt; City Attorney Misti Whitman; Planning Director Chuck George; Police Chief Mark Kattner; Recreation Director Cory Tobin (He ran the Zoom meeting); 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. He welcomed everyone in attendance and all the viewers on Channel 13 and online.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Briefing Meeting on August 9, 2021

Council Member Shelton moved that Council approve the minutes of the Briefing meeting of August 9, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bratton. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

B. Regular Council Meeting on August 16, 2021

Council Member Thrift moved that Council approve the minutes of the Council meeting of August 16, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shelton. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions. Council Member Grimes moved that Council adopt the agenda as presented. Council Member Leonard seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

4. RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – Mayor York read a Proclamation for Constitution Week in celebration of the 234th anniversary of the Constitution of the United States of America.

5. PUBLIC FORUM – Sal Leone spoke via Zoom. He asked that those running for Council do something to earn the citizens' votes. He suggested that they look into creating a police review board.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Consideration of Community Athletics Resolution

Recreation Director Cory Tobin explained that the Recreation Department had already completed the first step in getting accredited with the National Alliance of Youth Sports by getting all its staff certified who would be leading the youth athletic programs. He said the next step would be for Council to consider this Resolution to “solidify some of (the Recreation Department)’s policies and procedures” that are already in place.

Council Member Shelton moved to approve the Community Athletics Resolution. Council Member Thrift seconded. *Motion approved unanimously 6-0.*

B. Consideration of Revision to Ordinance Chapter 10 “Animals” Adding New Section 10-43 “Animal Bites”

Police Chief Mark Kattner asked Council to consider this Ordinance amendment to allow for greater penalties for the owner of a loose dog who bites someone, particularly repeat offenders.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve the revision to Ordinance Chapter 10 "Animals," adding new section 10-43 "Animal Bites". Council Member Murphy seconded. *Motion approved unanimously 6-0.*

C. Consideration of Revised Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18 "Businesses", Article III, "Itinerant Merchant", Sections 18-152, 18-153, 18-163

Planning Director Chuck George asked Council to approve this Ordinance Amendment adds new definitions; excuses food truck operators and caterers from itinerant merchant permit requirements for private events; and excuses food truck operators from needing to provide a criminal background check.

Council Member Grimes moved to approve this Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Article III, "Itinerant Merchant" as it relates to food trucks. Council Member Bratton seconded.

Council Member Pat Shelton asked Mr. George if this change only applied to food trucks. He said that was correct.

Motion approved unanimously 6-0.

D. Consideration of Letter of Support for Build Back Better Grant Application by PTRC

City Manager Michael Brandt asked Council if they wanted to support PTRC's manufacturing and technology grant application.

He explained that the Piedmont Triad Regional Council was applying for an EDA Regional Grant to support the transformation of manufacturing into the Next Generation of innovative technology – described as "advanced, creative, or cutting edge".

He said supporting this cluster would support the advancement of advanced manufacturing and the development of the latest technologies that could transform old-line industries in Thomasville and Davidson County, such as furniture and textiles. Furthermore, the existing employers within Thomasville would have access to a talented pipeline of workers who were trained in the latest techniques and technologies.

He added that programming and workforce development was a large element of this project, and PTRC was closely partnering with NC A&T, WSSU, Wake Forest University, and other organizations. The workforce education and training pieces would involve a broad range of talent: K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities, which would help keep the good jobs local.

Thomasville City School Superintendent Dr. Cate Gentry came forward to speak, and Council Member Grimes asked for an update on the TCS Advanced Manufacturing Academy.

Dr. Gentry summarized that in the spring of 2018, TCS representatives requested funds from the City to begin a 2-year Advanced Manufacturing Academy at Thomasville High School to complement the 2-year manufacturing program at Davidson County Community College. That program started with its first group of 60 students in the 2018-2019 school year. She said enrollment in that program was down last year due to Covid-19, since it is a very hands-on class. However, enrollment is back up this

year, and it is expected to continue to have about 60 students each school year. She said, "So far, so good!"

Council Member Shelton asked her for her thoughts on the *Build Back Better* program. Dr. Gentry said based on what she has heard about it from the City Manager, "We would be very interested in pursuing that." She explained that their current program has an immediate affiliation with the local community college for advanced manufacturing, but this grant could expand that and take it into the engineering realm with a partnership with colleges such as NCA&T.

Dr. Gentry said she thought the grant could benefit Thomasville, because, "We were looking for a way to not just encourage advanced manufacturing, but also to potentially encourage engineering, as well. And a link to NCA&T would be a very natural fit. We are not going to turn partnerships like that down. I think they always benefit our students."

Council Member Grimes moved to approve this Letter of Support for the Build Back Better Grant Application by PTRC. Council Member Shelton seconded. *Motion approved unanimously 6-0.*

7. CONSENT AGENDA

City Manager Brandt explained the following consent agenda items as follows:

- A. Consideration of Revisions to Personnel Policy Appendix A: Pay Grade to increase the starting grade level for the Mechanic I position, in order to keep up with the competitive job market.
- B. Consideration of Budget Amendment: Police Restitution/Asset Forfeiture Fund to appropriate \$35,600 for the purchase of a used Dodge Charger (\$18,800) and a DART computer-simulated firearm training system (\$16,800). The vehicle will replace a 2014 Dodge Charger which caught fire on 8/22/2021. This appropriation would leave a fund balance of \$138,819 in the Police Restitution/Asset Forfeiture Fund.
- C. Consideration of Revised Ordinance Chapter 78 "Traffic & Vehicles," Article VIII "Schedules: Various Sections Related to Downtown Parking and Standing, School Zones, and Fire Lanes to revise sections of Chapter 78 "Traffic & Vehicles" to address Downtown parking time limits, as follows:
 - Most parking spaces will now allow 2 hours, unless they're in loading zones;
 - School Zone modifications were made to match the new locations of school zone signage, allowing police officers to better enforce regulations within those zones; and
 - Updating Fire Lanes on Private Property to allow for enforcement by PD on properties such as shopping centers or mall parking lots and other public areas.
- D. Consideration of Road Closure Ordinance for Thomasville Christmas Parade on November 28, 2021 Road Closure Ordinance for Thomasville Christmas Parade, to be held on Sunday, November 28, 2021.

Council Member Shelton moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Thrift seconded.

City Manager Brandt said that all the approved ordinances would change on the City's website once the third party company has had time to update them.

Motion approved unanimously 6-0.

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 | 09/07/21 |
| 2) Public Safety Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 3) Aquatic Center Groundbreaking | 09/07/21 |
| 4) City Council Briefing | 09/13/21 |
| 5) City Council Meeting | 09/20/21 |

Council Member Bratton had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER NEAL GRIMES

Council Member Grimes attended the following:

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| 1) ABC Board of Directors | 08/19/21 |
| 2) State of the City and County luncheon | 08/19/21 |
| 3) HPMPO | 08/24/21 |
| 4) Public Safety Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 5) Personnel/Finance Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 6) Aquatic and Community Center Groundbreaking | 09/07/21 |
| 7) PART Board of Directors | 09/08/21 |
| 8) 9/11 Memorial Ceremony | 09/11/21 |
| 9) City Council Briefing | 09/13/21 |
| 10) City Council Meeting | 09/20/21 |

Council Member Grimes was happy to announce that the City broke ground on the new aquatic center, which would replace the 75-year-old swimming pool.

He added that the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony was outstanding and very well attended. It was held at the Thomasville Family Funeral Home in remembrance of the 20th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. He thanked the Thomasville Family Funeral Home, the Thomasville Library, the Thomasville Fire Department, Mt. Zion Children's Choir and all those involved. He said, "I was touched and honored to be there."

COUNCIL MEMBER JOE LEONARD

Council Member Leonard attended the following:

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| 1) City Council Meeting | 08/16/21 |
| 2) City Council Committee Meetings | 09/07/21 |
| 3) Aquatic and Community Center Groundbreaking | 09/07/21 |
| 4) 9/11 Ceremony | 09/11/21 |
| 5) City Council Briefing Meeting | 09/13/21 |
| 6) Police Ride Along | 09/18/21 |
| 7) Reception for Peggy Finch | 09/19/21 |

Council Member Leonard had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER JANE MURPHY

Council Member Murphy attended the following:

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| 1) Mohawk Ribbon Cutting | 08/17/21 |
| 2) Thomasville Chamber's State of the City and County | 08/19/21 |
| 3) Tourism Commission Meeting | 08/24/21 |
| 4) Dept. of Social Services Board Meeting | 08/24/21 |

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| 5) Work Force Development Annual Meeting | 08/26/21 |
| 6) City Council Committee Meetings | 09/07/21 |
| 7) Groundbreaking for Aquatic Center | 09/07/21 |
| 8) City Council Briefing Meeting | 09/13/21 |

Council Member Murphy had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER WENDY SELLARS

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| 1) Personnel/Finance Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 2) Public Safety Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 3) Aquatic Center Groundbreaking | 09/07/21 |
| 4) City Council Briefing | 09/13/21 |

COUNCIL MEMBER PAT SHELTON

Council Member Shelton attended the following:

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| 6) Personnel/Finance Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 7) Public Safety Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 8) Aquatic Center Groundbreaking | 09/07/21 |
| 9) City Council Briefing | 09/13/21 |
| 10) City Council Meeting | 09/20/21 |

On behalf of the Personnel/Finance Committee, Council Member Pat Shelton moved to appoint Steve Teglas to the regular seat on the Historic Preservation Commission and Paxton Taylor to the alternate seat. Council Member Grimes seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*

She announced that the City still needed volunteers for a lady golfer position on the Golf Advisory Board and a hotel/motel representative on the Tourism Commission.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUNTER THRIFT

Council Member Thrift attended the following:

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| 1) Personnel/Finance Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 2) Public Safety Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 3) Recreation Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 4) Aquatic Center Groundbreaking | 09/07/21 |
| 5) City Council Briefing | 09/13/21 |
| 6) City Council Meeting | 09/20/21 |

Council Member Thrift had no further report.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

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

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| 1) City Council Meeting | 08/16/21 |
| 2) Ribbon Cutting at Mohawk Industries | 08/17/21 |
| 3) Beautification Committee Meeting | 08/19/21 |
| 4) State of the City Presentation | 08/19/21 |
| 5) Personnel/Finance Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 6) Public Safety Committee | 09/07/21 |
| 7) Groundbreaking for the New Aquatic Center | 09/07/21 |
| 8) Litter Sweep on Randolph St. for 9/11 Event | 09/10/21 |
| 9) Remembrance Event for 9/11 | 09/11/21 |
| 10) City Council Briefing | 09/13/21 |
| 11) Beautification Committee Meeting | 09/16/21 |
| 12) Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament Meeting | 09/20/21 |

Mayor York said the ribbon cutting at Mohawk Industries was for an \$80M expansion. He said ribbon cuttings are always a good thing, because they represent an increase of our tax base and added jobs to our city.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Manager Brandt invited everyone to come out to Downtown Thomasville for Everybody's Night on 9/24/21 and Everybody's Day on 9/25/21. He said, "We hope that everyone has a good time, but also remember to practice safety; wash hands, wear a mask if in crowded areas, even if outside or vaccinated."

He also attended the 9/11 event. He said he recently had the opportunity to visit Shanksville, PA, where Flight 93 crashed, and there was a touching tribute there. He highly recommended that everyone visit it if they ever have the chance.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Attorney Whitman spent much time over the last month reviewing various ordinances and contracts for the City.

She also attended the funeral of James Snyder, Jr., a former State House member and longtime figure in Davidson County and North Carolina politics.

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS – None
10. ADJOURNMENT – Council Member Murphy moved to adjourn this meeting; Council Member Sellers seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 6 – 0.*




 Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor


 Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk