

MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 AT 6:00 PM AT 7003 BALLPARK ROAD, THOMASVILLE, NC.

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

1. Call to Order – Mayor York welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting of the Thomasville City Council to order.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda – There were no changes made to the agenda.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Shepherd seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

3. Recognitions and Presentations – Council Member Sellars presented a Proclamation for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She encouraged everyone - women and men - to get screened, advising that she herself is a two-time breast cancer survivor, and early detection absolutely saved her life. No action was taken.

4. Public Forum – No one came forward to speak. No action was taken.

5. Public Hearings –

A. Request for Rezoning: (Z-22-05)

Applicant/Owner: Hinkle Mill Limited Partnership – William Hinkle
 Location: 108 Randolph Street
 Parcel Number: 16113000C0026
 Existing Zoning: M-2 Heavy Industrial
 Proposed Zoning: M-1 Light Industrial

Mayor York advised that on September 27, 2022, the Planning Board held a public hearing regarding this rezoning request and unanimously approved it 6-0 because there are no objectionable external effects of the rezoning; it is compatible with nearby properties; the rezoning will allow a continued use of the property; and it is reasonable due to its consistency with the comprehensive plan. He then opened the public hearing.

Property Owner William Hinkle spoke in favor of this rezoning, saying he wanted to be able to have churches or antique stores on the property in the future.

No one else came forward to speak for or against this rezoning. Mayor closed the hearing.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve this rezoning because it is consistent with the comprehensive plan. Council Member Hunt seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

B. Request for Rezoning: (Z-22-06)

Applicant/Owner: Zachary Sprinkle
 Location: 117 & 119 Transit Avenue
 Parcel Number: 16312E0000017 & 16312E0000016
 Existing Zoning: M-1 Light Industrial
 Proposed Zoning: M-2 Heavy Industrial

Mayor York advised that on September 27, 2022, the Planning Board held a public hearing regarding this rezoning request and unanimously approved it 6-0 because it will allow the owner to establish a compatible business on the property; it is compatible with the businesses in the area and adjacent to the property; it will allow the property to be utilized; and it is consistent with the comprehensive plan. He then opened the public hearing.

Property Owner Zachary Sprinkle spoke in favor of this rezoning, saying he wanted to

be able to have a sawmill on the property.

No one else came forward to speak for or against this rezoning. Mayor closed the hearing.

Council Member Hunt moved to approve this rezoning because it is compatible with the businesses in the local area. Council Member Sellars seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Briefing Meeting on 09/12/22

B. Approval of Minutes – Council Meeting on 09/19/22

C. Consideration of 2022 – 2023 General Fund Budget Amendment – Transfer of Supplanted Salaries to Recreation Department

City Manager Brandt advised that this amendment transfers \$489,696 in salaries (supplanted using ARPA funding) from the Fire Department to the Recreation Department for the purchase of the property at 305 East Main Street in Thomasville;

and it appropriates:

- \$22,161 of insurance proceeds for damage to 2 police vehicles;
- \$26,040 for damage to City Hall;
- funding for compliance with GASB-87 capital lease reporting requirements; and
- \$15,881 for 48 months of funding for the lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for the postage machine and meter at City Hall.

D. Consideration of Moving Council Briefing Meetings to 4:00 PM beginning 11/14/22

City Manager Brandt explained that moving the Briefing Meeting to 4:00 PM would make it so staff would not have to stay late for a meeting that generally takes only a few minutes to conduct. He advised that this recommendation came from the Personnel/Finance Committee.

E. Consideration of Personnel Policy Updates

City Manager Brandt said the Personnel/Finance Committee also proposed the following changes to the Thomasville Personnel Policy:

- XIII Leave of Absence – Section 1 – Holidays Observed – This adds the observance of the Juneteenth holiday annually on June 19th to the observed holidays for the City of Thomasville. City Offices will be closed to the public and all FT employees will be granted holiday pay for that day.
- XIII Leave of Absence – Section 12 – Sick Leave Use and Reporting. This changes the policy to allow sick leave to be used in increments of time as needed, rather than half-day increments only.

F. Consideration of Site Lease Agreement for Antenna on Turner Street Water Tank

City Manager Brandt said the Thomasville City School Board has requested the use of our water tower to support an antenna that will provide TCS with electronic internet interconnectivity for their school facilities.

Council Member Sellars moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Hunt seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

7. Regular Agenda

A. Consideration of Resolution in Support of Operation Green Light (November 7 – 13)

Council Member Hunt presented the Resolution in Support of Operation Green Light to Davidson County Commissioner James Shores.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve the Resolution. Council Member Shell seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

County Commissioner Shores thanked Thomasville City Council for supporting this Resolution in support of addressing the needs of veterans. He said this movement started in New York City, and it has spread across the Country. He and a County Commissioner from Wake County brought it to North Carolina.

County Commissioner Shores said the green light is a way for everyone to show their support for veterans.

The other part of this movement is to get more help for Veterans. He explained that there are only 150 Veteran Service Officers in North Carolina to offer benefit support to over 700,000 Veterans. (Florida, for example, has 1,500 VSOs but only half the number of Veterans that NC has.) The local Green Light movement is lobbying to get North Carolina to fund an additional VSO for each county in the state.

Mayor York announced that the City of Thomasville plans to shine green light on the Big Chair during Green Lights for Veterans week from November 7 – 13. He also encouraged businesses and citizens to have green lights in their windows during that week in support of Veterans.

B. Consideration of Grant Project Ordinance – N. C. Governor's Highway Safety Program DWI Task Force Grant

City Manager Brandt said the Thomasville Police Department received funding from the N.C. Department of Transportation's Governor's Highway Safety Program for a DWI Task Force grant for the period from 10/1/2022-9/30/2023.

The ordinance establishes a grant budget and appropriates a total of \$119,593 for the following salaries and fringe benefits:

- \$66,843 for one police officer and other direct costs;
- \$40,000 patrol vehicle;
- \$4,000 mobile data terminal;
- \$6,000 in-car video system; and
- \$2,750 for travel and training costs.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve this Grant Project Ordinance. Council Member Hunt seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

C. Consideration of ARPA Grant Project Ordinance – American Rescue Plan Act - ARPA Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF)

Assistant City Manager Bowling explained that this ordinance appropriates \$489,696 of ARPA grant funding to supplant/replace salary costs in the Fire Department for four pay dates (1 payroll in July, 2 payrolls in August, 1 payroll in September).

Supplanting salary costs in the Fire Department is allowable per ARPA Grant regulations, and it allows the City to use general funds (not grant funds) to purchase the property at 305 East Main Street. Using general funding, instead of grant funding, for this purchase removes restrictions regarding a future sale of the property.

This Grant Project Ordinance also appropriates \$49,839 for the additional cost of a fire engine apparatus, which is funded primarily through an installment financing

loan of \$650,000. Note, the cost (now \$699,839) has increased from initial quotes received, so the remainder will be funded through ARPA.

Total budgeted ARPA funding to date: \$6,383,678.

Total available/unallocated grant funding to date: \$2,109,290.

Council Member Williams moved to approve this Grant Project Ordinance. Council Member Sellars seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

D. Consideration of ARPA Budget Amendment

Assistant City Manager Eddie Bowling said this amendment transfers a total of \$539,535 from the Grant Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund for the aforementioned costs.

Council Member Sellars moved to approve this Budget Amendment. Council Member Shell seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

E. Consideration of Resolution Directing City Clerk To Investigate Sufficiency of Petition for Voluntary Annexation of a portion of Lake Road

City Manager Brandt advised that this is regarding the petition for voluntary annexation of approximately 54-acres of land at 726 Lake Road, just outside our City limits near the Dollar General. The tract is to allow for a proposed multi-family residential development. If this Resolution is approved, City staff will review and provide a report to City Council on the affect this proposed development may have on City services, if annexed.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve this Resolution. Council Member Williams seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

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

Council Member Williams reminded everyone to be extra cautious while driving the rest of this month because of Halloween festivities.

She also wished to acknowledge the victims of the Raleigh shooting on October 13, 2022, which left 5 people dead and 2 people injured. She said this one was so close to home, it made her realize this type of thing can happen anywhere, and she needs to keep her eyes open. She asked for prayers for the families of the victims:

Nicole Connors, 52;
Susan Karnatz, 49;
Mary Marshall, 35;
Gabriel Torres, 29, off-duty police officer; and
James Roger Thompson, 16, the brother of the 15-year-old gunman

Council Member Thrift moved, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, to appoint:

Yvette Hicks as the Lady Golfer Representative to the Golf Advisory Committee.

Council Member Hunt seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

Council Member Thrift also moved, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, regarding the Historic Preservation Commission, to change:

Lisa Edwards to the *alternate* member position for the rest of her term; and
Katheryn Byrnes to the *regular* member position for the rest of her term.

Council Member Shell seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

Council Member Hunt thanked and applauded County Commissioner Shores for his work on the Green Light program. He said there are a LOT of veterans in this state, "So what he's doing is a good thing, and I appreciate it so much that he's taking action to do that."

Mayor York reported that this year's Everybody's Day in September was the most attended that anyone can remember. There were over 100 more vendors this year than last year, and it brought a lot of people to Thomasville. He said it's good for our city, and he appreciated everyone who participated in it.

He also announced that a committee was formed to decide what to do with the building at 7 West Guilford Street for the benefit of the City and the citizens. He announced that there will be at least one public forum so citizens can have input on what they want to see happen with that building.

City Manager Brandt thanked Eddie Bowling for managing the last City Council meeting in September while he was on vacation.

He also thanked Council for their consideration and approval of the Juneteenth City Holiday. He said, "Over the past couple of years, I have come to learn of the importance of this day to many within our community. While the July 4th Holiday celebrates our collective history as the birth of our nation, it did not mean freedom for everyone. Celebrating the Juneteenth Holiday provides an opportunity to recognize the day that we, as a community, and a nation, can truly claim that the words of our Declaration of Independence were intended for all people. '...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'"

Assistant City Manager Bowling said that the City has submitted a \$950,000 grant application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce to aid in the 11 Pine Street Renovation.

He also advised that the City has partnered with CGI, who created videos to promote the City. The videos were supported by ads and were free of charge to the city. He encouraged everyone to check them out on the City website and Facebook pages and Channel 13.

City Attorney Misti Whitman advised that attorneys are not allowed to assist Veterans without special certifications, so that can make it very, very difficult for Veterans to find attorneys to assist them with their benefits. Attorney groups are urging attorneys to obtain this certification, and Attorney Whitman is hopeful that this Green Light project will prompt more participation by attorneys as well.

9. Additional Items – County Commissioner Shores advised that citizens can get more information about Operation Green Light at [Operation Green Light | Davidson County, NC](https://www.co.davidson.nc.us/1060/Operation-Green-Light). (<https://www.co.davidson.nc.us/1060/Operation-Green-Light>)
10. Adjournment – Council Member Sellars moved to adjourn. Council Member Shell seconded. Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.

Raleigh York, Jr.

Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor

Wendy S. Martin

Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk

