

MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021 AT 6:00 PM AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 AT 4:00 PM. AT 7003 BALLPARK ROAD, THOMASVILLE, NC.

In attendance: Mayor Raleigh York Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Neal Grimes and Council Members Ron Bratton, Joe Leonard, Jane Murphy, Wendy Sellars, and Scott Styers (both days); and Hunter Thrift (on Monday only).

The following staff members attended the meeting: City Manager Michael Brandt; City Attorney Misti Whitman; Recreation Director Cory Tobin; Police Chief Mark Kattner; MIS Director Justin Trogden 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

Regular Council Meeting on April 19, 2021

Council Member Styers moved that Council approve the minutes of the Council meeting on April 19, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thrift. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Michael Brandt requested the following additions to the agenda:

- 6.E. Call for Budget Hearing – June 7, 2021, 7003 Ball Park Road, 6 P.M.
- 6.F. Consideration of Resolution Accepting ARPA Funds
- 6.G. Consideration of Revised Mask Protocol and Future Council Meeting Locations
- 4.C. Proclamation – Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 4th)
- 10. Closed Session for Attorney/Client

Council Member Bratton moved that Council adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Murphy. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

4. RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Proclamation – Community Action Month (May) N. Grimes presented this to the DC Community Action Board Chair Keisha Jones and Board Secretary Cheraton Love. Dr. Love invited a member of Council to consider joining the DCCA.
- B. Proclamation – Public Works Week (May 16 – 22) Mayor York read this to thank our Public Works staff.
- C. Proclamation – Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 4th) W. Sellars presented this to Linda Melton and her sister Brenda Young. Ms. Melton invited everyone to gather at Doak Park on June 5, 2021 from 1:00 – 6:00 PM for a “respectful” Gun Violence Awareness event.
- 5. PUBLIC FORUM – Mayor York explained that the Public Forum was the citizens’ opportunity to speak for 2 minutes on any topic. He asked people to leave their contact information on the sign-up sheet, if they wished to be contacted by Council or City Staff.

- A. Jacquez Johnson, Chairman of the Multicultural Committee, spoke regarding a Citizen Survey. His comments are on file with the City Clerk and are available upon request.
- B. Alexander Thompson, owner/operator of Davidson County All-Stars AAU Football and Cheer program, asked Council to consider allowing youth AAU Football at Cushwa Stadium. He said his kids have practiced at King Row Park in Thomasville for 4 years, but now he is being asked to pay to use the field they've been using. He asked Council to let the local kids play for free, so they don't have to go out of town to play.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Resolution Approving Local Water Supply Plan

City Manager Brandt explained that the State requires the City Council to approve a Water Supply Plan that provides the guidance for the management of the future water supplies of the City.

Council Member Styers moved to approve this Resolution. This motion was seconded by Council Member Sellars. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

B. General Fund Budget Amendment: Insurance Proceeds (Police Department) and State Distribution (Fire Department)

Finance Director Avant asked Council to appropriate:

- a State distribution of \$1,016 to the Thomasville Fire Department for the protection of State property in the City of Thomasville; and
- insurance proceeds totaling \$6,125 for a police auto accident involving a 2018 Dodge Charger.

Council Member Thrift moved to approve this Budget Amendment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sellars. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

C. Release and Appropriation of Recreation Reserve Funds: Phase 1 of Memorial Park Center and Pool

City Manager Brandt said this item was for the allocation of Recreation Reserve Funds for item 6. D. However, due to changes in the cost of this project, he asked that Council consider recessing agenda items 6. C. & D. until more information could be presented on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. at 7003 Ball Park Road.

City Attorney Whitman confirmed that these two items could be heard later, while the remaining items could be discussed at the current meeting, without Council action.

Mayor York stated that items 6. C. & D. would be heard on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. at 7003 Ball Park Road, but the rest of the agenda items would be heard at the current meeting, which would be recessed at the end, instead of adjourned.

D. Award of Bid for Phase 1 – Demolition of Memorial Park Pool

This item was recessed until May 19, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. at 7003 Ball Park Road.

E. Call for Budget Hearing – June 7, 2021, 7003 Ball Park Road, 6 P.M.

City Manager Brandt announced that the budget was balanced at \$45,953,889, with a proposed tax rate of \$0.62, with an increase of 2 cents going to a Street Maintenance Reserve account. He said the proposed budget was available for public inspection at the Finance Department at the City Hall, and a summary would be available on the City Website on May 18th.

He asked City Council to set a public hearing for public comments on the budget on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6 P.M. at 7003 Ball Park Road.

Council Member Grimes moved to set the public hearing as described. Council Member Thrift seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved* 7 – 0.

F. Consideration of Resolution Accepting American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Finance Director Avant asked Council to adopt a Resolution accepting American Rescue Plan Act funding, which will be released partially in June of 2021 and the rest in June of 2022.

He explained that funds are being provided to local governments for a number of uses, including: supporting the public health response to COVID-19; replacing public sector revenue loss; water and sewer infrastructure projects; to address negative economic impacts; to provide premium pay for essential workers; and for broadband infrastructure projects.

Council Member Murphy moved to approve this Resolution. Council Member Sellars seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved* 7 – 0.

G. Consideration of Change to Mask Protocol and Future Council Meeting Locations

City Manager Brandt reported that last week, the CDC announced that they would no longer recommend that vaccinated individuals wear masks, and Governor Cooper removed the mask mandate for all individuals, unless they were in healthcare or daycare situations or in big groups for an extended period of time. Mr. Brandt asked Council how they wished to move forward regarding masks and social distancing.

The Council Members discussed this issue and each agreed that Council and Committee meetings should continue to be held in rooms large enough to allow for social distancing, but they would not require masks, except as recommended by the CDC Guidelines. All Council Members agreed, saying they would revisit this on a monthly basis.

In addition, Council Member Styers advised advisory boards, committees and commissions that after the Governor lifted the State of Emergency, hybrid online meetings would be allowable, but not for the purposes of a quorum. A quorum would need to be physically present.

Regarding advertising requirements after the State of Emergency is lifted, City Attorney Whitman said, “We don’t exactly know what’s going to happen after the emergency order is lifted, but we will update you and let you know.”

7. 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:

- 1) City Budget Overview Meeting 05/03/21
- 2) City Council Committees (Personnel/Finance, Public Services, Real Estate) 05/04/21

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| 3) City Council Briefing | 05/10/21 |
| 4) City Budget Review Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 5) City Council Meeting | 05/17/21 |
| 6) City Council Meeting | 05/19/21 |

Council Member Bratton thanked Police Chief Kattner for having the most diverse group of officers ever at the Thomasville Police Department, from men, women and all ethnic groups, which reflects the makeup of the citizens of Thomasville well.

COUNCIL MEMBER NEAL GRIMES

Council Member Grimes attended the following:

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| 1) Meeting with Michael Brown re: Memorial Day Requests for City | 04/21/21 |
| 2) HPMPD | 04/27/21 |
| 3) PACE Retreat at Farmers Market | 04/28/21 |
| 4) City Budget Overview Meeting | 05/03/21 |
| 5) City Council Committees (Personnel/Finance, Public Services, Real Estate) | 05/04/21 |
| 6) Davidson County Transportation Advisory Council Retreat - DCCC | 05/06/21 |
| 7) Memorial Day Committee Meeting | 05/08/21 |
| 8) City Council Briefing | 05/10/21 |
| 9) City Budget Review Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 10) PART Board of Directors Meeting | 05/12/21 |
| 11) PART Personnel Committee Meeting | 05/12/21 |
| 12) City Council Meeting | 05/17/21 |
| 13) City Council Meeting | 05/19/21 |

Council Member Grimes announced that there would not be a Memorial Day parade due to the pandemic. However, there would be short ceremonies on Saturday, May 29th, at 10:00 at the Vietnam Memorial on I-85 and on Monday morning at Veterans Park (corner of Stadium Drive and Liberty Street, where the flags and "canons" are.) Bring your own chair!

COUNCIL MEMBER JOE LEONARD

Council Member Leonard attended the following:

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| 1) City Council Briefing Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 2) City Budget Review Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 3) City Council Meeting | 05/17/21 |
| 4) City Council Meeting | 05/19/21 |

He also attended CrimeStoppers meetings.

Council Member Leonard had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER JANE MURPHY

Council Member Murphy attended the following:

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| 1) DavidsonWorks Executive Committee Meeting | 04/26/21 |
| 2) Thomasville Tourism Commission Board Retreat | 04/27/21 |
| 3) DSS Board Meeting | 04/27/21 |
| 4) City Budget Overview Meeting | 05/03/21 |
| 5) City Council Committees (Personnel/Finance, Public Services, Real Estate) | 05/04/21 |
| 6) Multicultural Committee Meeting | 05/06/21 |
| 7) Meeting re: Historic Downtown Showcase | 05/07/21 |
| 8) City Council Briefing Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 9) City Budget Review Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 10) City Council Meeting | 05/17/21 |

11) City Council Meeting 05/19/21

Council Member Murphy moved to appoint J. J. Ring to a restaurant seat on the Tourism Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sellars. No discussion. *Motion approved 6 – 1, with Council Member Styers voting no.*

Council Member Murphy had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER WENDY SELLARS

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| 1) City Budget Overview Meeting | 05/03/21 |
| 2) City Council Committees (Personnel/Finance, Public Services, Real Estate) | 05/04/21 |
| 3) City Council Briefing | 05/10/21 |
| 4) City Budget Review Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 5) City Council Meeting | 05/17/21 |
| 6) City Council Meeting | 05/19/21 |

Council Member Sellars had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCOTT STYERS

Council Member Styers attended the following:

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| 1) Thomasville High School Hall of Fame Meeting | 04/28/21 |
| 2) EnVision Meeting | 05/03/21 |
| 3) City Budget Overview Meeting | 05/03/21 |
| 4) City Council Committees (Personnel/Finance, Public Services, Real Estate) | 05/04/21 |
| 5) Davidson County Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting | 05/06/21 |
| 6) Recreation Committee Meeting | 05/06/21 |
| 7) City Council Briefing Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 8) City Budget Review Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 9) City/Thomasville City School Staff Meeting | 05/11/21 |
| 10) City Council Meeting | 05/17/21 |
| 11) City Council Meeting | 05/19/21 |

Council Member Styers had no further report.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUNTER THRIFT

Council Member Thrift attended the following:

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| 1) City Budget Overview Meeting | 05/03/21 |
| 2) City Council Committees (Personnel/Finance, Public Services, Real Estate) | 05/04/21 |
| 3) Multicultural Committee | 05/06/21 |
| 4) City Council Briefing Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 5) City Budget Review Meeting | 05/10/21 |
| 6) City Council Meeting | 05/17/21 |

Council Member Thrift had no further report.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

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| 1) City Council Meeting | 04/19/21 |
| 2) EDC Board Meeting | 04/20/21 |
| 3) Met with Cub Scout Troup at Fair Grove UMC | 04/20/21 |
| 4) Budget Overview Meeting | 05/03/21 |
| 5) Personnel/Finance Committee | 05/04/21 |
| 6) Public Services Committee | 05/04/21 |
| 7) Real Estate Committee | 05/04/21 |
| 8) Swearing-In Ceremony at Fire Department | 05/06/21 |

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| 9) City Council Review of Budget | 05/10/21 |
| 10) City Council Briefing | 05/10/21 |
| 11) Met with Leaders of Thomasville City Schools | 05/11/21 |
| 12) Ribbon Cutting at Cosmos Restaurant | 05/15/21 |
| 13) Swearing-In Ceremony at Fire Department | 05/17/21 |

Mayor York reported that he enjoyed getting back out into the community. His highlights included meeting with a group of Cub Scouts; attending a ribbon cutting at Cosmos, a seafood restaurant at 615 E. Main Street; and swearing-in some new/promoted fire fighters.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Manager Brandt said that City Hall has been reopened for a month, and that is going well. He said he has had a good response with people coming into the building with wearing masks and following the protocols.

He thanked Thomas Avant and Eric Krpejs in the Finance Department and all the Department Heads for all their work on the Budget.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Attorney Whitman advised Council that she has received all of former City Attorney Paul Mitchell's old City files. She said all is well.

8. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel & Attorney/Client

Council Member Styers moved that Council go into closed session for Personnel & Attorney/Client issues. Council Member Sellars seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

Council returned to open session. No action was taken in Closed Session.

9. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

10. RECESS MEETING – Council Member Murphy moved that Council recess the meeting until Wednesday, May 19th at 4:00 PM at 7003 Ball Park Road. Council Member Sellars seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 AT 4:00 P.M.
7003 Ball Park Road, Thomasville, NC

MEETING RESUMED – Mayor York called the Thomasville City Council meeting back to order. Elected officials in attendance: Mayor Raleigh York Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Neal Grimes and Council Members Ron Bratton, Joe Leonard, Jane Murphy, Wendy Sellars, and Scott Styers. (Council Member Thrift was absent.)

6.C. Release and Appropriation of Recreation Reserve Funds: Phase 1 of Memorial Park Center and Pool

Rachel Neilson of CPL Architects presented a Power Point regarding changes to the pool plans, due to increased costs. Copies of her presentation slides are available at the City Clerk's office upon request.

Ms. Neilson said the initial projected budget from January increased to \$6,770,611. She advised that the building design had increased by 1,170 sq. ft. from the original conceptual design, due to the addition of Council Chambers and an AV storage area. The cost per square foot also increased because of the equipment, finishes, materials and system being used. Changing from pole lighting to flood lighting at the pool and site lighting also created a significant cost difference. Fire alarm and telecom systems were also added on.

She said, "The really big item that is making a really big impact on that cost is

just general cost increases in the construction industry right now. There are significant labor shortages, and that's driving labor cost increases." She added that subcontractors aren't bidding on big projects right now, and that's also driving costs up. Material supply chain shortages, material cost increases. Lumber prices are up 3-4 times what they were even just 6 months ago, and steel and most other metals are up at least 50%. Finally, supply chains are also causing issues, so long wait times are expected for supplies, so in order to get this facility built in a timely manner, some of the systems (such as steel joints for the building) had to be changed out for available materials.

She suggested the following ways to cut costs off the \$6.3M that would "keep the value of the building without significantly affecting the square footage":

- Removing the diving board;
- Holding off on getting the picnic shelter right now;
- Hold off on Stadium Drive improvements/Multiuse path (10'-wide sidewalk) along Stadium Drive;
- Combining 3 multipurpose rooms into 2 would eliminate the need for a garage door and a moveable partition;
- Removing sunshades and a storefront window at the front of the building;
- Changing the pole lights to flood lights at the pool deck; and
- Claiming 2% Sales tax reimbursement on materials;

She said the gray beam for future enclosure of the pool could be added back in, if they wished.

Council Member Styers said it has been over 70 years since the last pool was built, so he wanted it to be done right. He said, "My focus is on finding ways to find the revenue, not finding ways to cut the project."

Council Member Grimes asked if the foundational items would be included, so future Councils could add to it without having to tear anything up.

Ms. Neilson said the foundational items would be included. The concrete slab, for example, would be laid for the picnic shelter, but the shelter itself was a pre-engineered/pre-manufactured type system that would be pretty simple to add on at a later date.

Council Member Grimes said, "I agree with Scott, I don't want to cut anything." Council Member Styers said, "We already did the cutting. We wanted an enclosed pool, possibly a heated facility, and we're not getting the top-of-the-line..."

City Manager Brandt said the diving board was an element that wasn't needed, because it caused insurance issues. The picnic shelter could be done separately by other means at a later date. He said funding the rest of those items could be done with other Recreation reserves or sales tax funds, which have been strong lately.

In addition, Mr. Brandt said some Council Members had suggested to him that changing the proposed budget could help pay the difference. He handed out paperwork with various proposals. Council discussed the matter and decided on changing the 2-cent increase for street maintenance to a 1-cent increase for street maintenance and a 1-cent increase for Recreation Reserve.

Mr. Brandt said after the Aquatic Center was built, the City could continue to use those Recreation Reserve funds to possibly add on to the facility to include a gymnasium ten years down the road.

Council Member Grimes said that although he was in favor of the 2-cent tax increase for street maintenance, he felt it was more urgent for the Aquatic Center to move forward without delay and to do it right. He explained that a

penny on each \$100,000 of property would only be \$10, so it wouldn't be much extra tax, but it would be worth the investment to come up with something wonderful for our city. He suggested putting the 2-cent set-aside toward the Recreation Reserves Fund, instead of road maintenance.

Council Member Murphy was in favor of that.

Council Member Styers said he wants to see this project get done. While he wouldn't have supported a 2-cent increase for streets, he said he would support 1 more cent going to Recreation Reserves (in addition to the 2-cent set aside currently being collected, for a total of 3 cents,) and 1-cent going toward paving. Council Members Sellars, Bratton and Leonard agreed.

Council Member Styers reminded everyone that Council had decided against building a \$600,000-\$700,000 splash pad, and that money would be going toward the Aquatic Center, which will include a splash pad.

City Manager Brandt said the 1 extra cent would be enough to get the pool built without making the above cuts, even if the prices were to raise a bit more in the coming months. He said capital funds could also be used for this project, if necessary, because this is a capital project. He said, "It would not be taking from another project specifically." He still recommended removing the diving board for insurance reasons.

Council Member Styers thanked everyone for their hard work on this project. He said, "I know it's a dream, but it's a dream we want to make come true."

Council Member Grimes asked if the 1-cent going to streets could change to the pool after the budget was approved, if necessary. Mr. Brandt explained that it could. Since the funds are set-asides, Council members could vote to change uses for those funds.

Ms. Neilson said it would be sent out to bid in 6 to 8 weeks, and work could get started 4 weeks after that, so it would be bid in 2½ - 3 months.

Mr. Brandt explained that once the City received the bids, Council would have to accept one and present it to the LGC, which would authorize the sale of the bonds necessary to fund this project. He said if the bids came back over \$6M, staff would other avenues to pursue before recommending that Council move the 1-cent set-aside for streets.

Council Member Grimes asked if the \$6M borrowing would harm the City. Assistant Finance Director Eric Krpeis said, "It was better that we get the \$6M and keep our reserves than go get the \$5.5M and take from our reserves."

Mr. Brandt explained that \$237,000 of the \$330,000 being requested at this time would be for the contract for demolition of the pool, about \$15,000 would be for the removal of the fuel tank, and the remaining funds would be used for the degrading and site preparation for construction.

Council Member Grimes moved to approve the release and appropriation of \$330,000 from the Recreation Reserve Funds to the General Fund for Phase I of Memorial Park Center and Pool. Council Member Murphy seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

6.D. Award of Bid for Phase 1 – Demolition of Memorial Park Pool

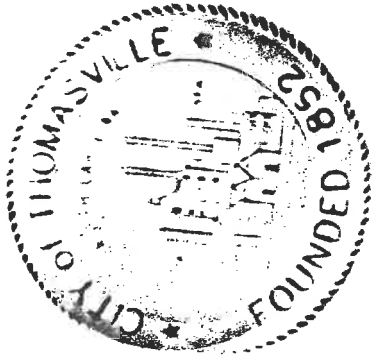
City Manager Brandt explained that this is to award the demolition contract to Laughlin Sutton.


Council Member Styers moved to award this bid for Phase 1 of the demolition of Memorial Park Pool. Council Member Sellars seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

10. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel

Council Member Murphy moved that Council go into closed session for a personnel matter. Committee Member W. Sellars seconded. No action was taken in closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT: W. Sellars moved to adjourn. Council Member Murphy seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*




Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor


Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk

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