

MINUTES FOR THE THOMASVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021 AT 6:00 PM AT 7003 BALL PARK ROAD, THOMASVILLE, NC.

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

The following staff members attended the meeting: City Manager Michael Brandt; Assistant City Manager Eddie Bowling; Police Chief Mark Kattner; City Attorney Misti Whitman; Planning Director Chuck George; Recreation Director Cory Tobin; MIS Director Justin Trogdon; and City Clerk Wendy Martin.

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Raleigh York, Jr. called the meeting of the Thomasville City Council to order.
2. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Brandt asked Council to add a closed session as item 9 for an Attorney/Client matter. Mayor *Pro Tem* Sellars moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Thrift seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

Council Member Sellars moved that Council approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Thrift seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

3. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Recognition of Officer Brian Aguilar for Letter of Commendation from High Point Police Department – Mayor York read the commendation letter, which is on file with the City Clerk.
- B. Recognition of Retirements in 2021 – Contact the City Clerk for this complete listing.

4. PUBLIC FORUM – No one signed up to speak during the Public Forum.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

City Attorney Misti Whitman advised that Council Member Hunt is *required* to vote on the following matter, even though he used to be on the Planning Board. If he refrained, his vote would legally be considered an automatic affirmative vote.

Planning Director Chuck George introduced the public hearing with the following information:

Request for Rezoning:	(Z-21-05)
Applicant:	Leoterra Development, Inc.
Owner:	William Lynn Hinkle, et al.
Location:	Lexington Avenue
Tax Parcel ID #:	16-325-0-000-0089
Existing Zoning:	R-10 Low Density Residential
Proposed Zoning:	CZ-R6 Conditional Zoning High Density Residential

Conditions: Permitted uses to *include*: Single Family Residential, Town Homes, Twin Homes, Duplexes; Permitted uses to *exclude*: All R-6 uses not listed as included shall be prohibited; *Development Conditions:* Density shall be limited to 280 units. *Other Conditions:* 20-ft. semi-opaque buffer yard.

The Board of Planning and Adjustment held a public hearing on 11/30/21 and voted 5-1 in favor of this rezoning because, "It does not conflict with adjoining properties and homes, it stabilizes and protects the essential characteristics of the area, and it is compatible with the 2035 Land Development Plan, providing the City of Thomasville with high quality single family housing."

Mr. George said an additional zoning permit is a prerequisite for this land to be developed. The area is surrounded by low and high density residential, as well as light industrial zoning. The site map shows 64.95 acres of undeveloped land on Lexington Avenue. The proposed use is for 280 unit townhomes with public streets,

sidewalks, USPS cluster mailbox station, city water and sewer, street lights, and stormwater control devices.

He said the Technical Review Committee has review the plan.

The 2035 Land Use Plan indicates the area for Medical and Mix-use. It is anchored by the Thomasville Medical Center and is surrounded by residential, vacant and commercial use along Lexington Avenue. It is easily accessible from Business 85 via Lexington Avenue.

Mr. George advised that some of the concerns brought up at the Planning Board of Adjustment meeting were that some area residents:

- wanted to increase the landscape buffer and protect the current buffer;
- preferred single-family residential homes over townhomes;
- were concerned about increased traffic; and
- were concerned about increased stormwater at Jimmy's Creek.

Mayor York opened the public hearing and asked the representative for Leoterra Development, Inc to present their Power Point slideshow. Attorney LeDiedre Matthews with Fox Rothschild came forward with Kai Unger from the Developer, Leoterra, and Site Engineer Rob Frost of NC Design Solutions. The City Clerk has a copy of these slides on file, and they are available upon request.

Ms. Matthews said Leoterra is a local development firm with offices in Kernersville, NC and has a reputation for building quality residential developments near the interstate. They have built residential developments across North Carolina, including some in Trinity, Lexington, Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem, to name a few. They have also developed Life Storage, a climate-controlled indoor self-storage facility in Thomasville.

She summarized that this hearing is to consider their request to rezone a vacant 70-acre parcel from Low Density Residential (R10) to Conditional Zoning High Density Residential (CZ-R6) to allow for up to 280 residential units, including single family residential, town homes, twin homes, and/or duplexes only. The slides showed the location and layout of the proposed development plan.

Ms. Matthews said the residential units will be located across 51 separate lots in 5 different sections. There will be 2 access roads off of Lexington Avenue with designated turn lanes. She advised that 20-foot buffers would separate the development from existing neighbors on the east and west ends of the property.

The plan also includes 3 stormwater retention ponds, since about 6.5 acres of the 70-acre parcel is in the flood zone. She said the development plan meets all the requirements. In this case, the stormwater administrator has decided that retention ponds on the proposed development must treat stormwater run-off for a 100-year storm event, which exceeds the State's minimum requirement of a 10-year storm event.

Ms. Matthews also said because Jimmy's Creek runs through the property, Leoterra is required to provide buffers to protect the stream from the impact of the development.

She said the development plan includes 43% open space throughout the site, which is well in excess of the required minimum of 20%.

The plan is consistent with the Land Development Plan. It will use vacant land to provide housing that is convenient to schools, parks, employment and shopping.

Prior to the public hearing, Leoterra sent two informational letters to area residents and held a neighborhood meeting on November 11, 2021 to answer questions. As a result, Leoterra offered to increase buffers along the east and west boundary lines to minimize the neighbors' concerns.

Council Member Shepherd asked how Leoterra planned to protect Jimmy's Creek.

Rob Frost said the Developer plans "to leave (Jimmy's Creek) as it is, as much as we possibly can. With it being a floodway, we are going to leave those all undisturbed. There are different zones along the creek that we will abide by. I believe the first zone is closest to the creek where we cannot touch it. We will not touch it. And then the second zone is the upland zone, which we may have areas of grading change, but those will be replanted."

Council Member Shepherd asked how much area would need to be graded.

Mr. Frost said, "It would be very minimal, especially with Jimmy's Creek. We may encroach into the (Stormwater Pond #3) area a little bit, and also maybe adjacent to lot 11 at the bottom of the screen, but everywhere else we are not even planning to do anything within that southern portion of the whole, entire property. There are, I believe, existing pedestrian bridges along that creek, too, that will remain."

Council Member Hunt asked if the three retention ponds were located at the low points of the property.

Mr. Frost said the retention ponds are located where they are due to existing drainage patterns. He said it is their requirement to match the 100-year existing flow.

Council Member Hunt pointed out that retention pond #3 was located at the end of a main thoroughfare. He asked if it was taking into account the stormwater runoff from the top of the property, so that it will not overflow into Jimmy's Creek.

Mr. Frost answered, "We would have an overflow designed into Jimmy's Creek, but we will have to contain the 100-year storm, which means any storm event beyond the 100-year storm will be designed to go over the emergency spillway and into Jimmy's Creek."

Council Member Hunt asked if this was being designed above and beyond what is being required of them.

Mr. Frost said the Stormwater Administrator is requiring the maximum, which is the 100-year storm.

Council Member Hunt asked if he understood that there is already an issue with Jimmy's Creek flooding, so all precautions would be taken by the builder.

Mr. Frost said, "Yes, absolutely."

Council Member Bratton asked Planning Director George if City Council had increased the requirements in that area.

Mr. George confirmed that City Council had approved stricter restrictions to the max in that area in October, 2021.

Council Member Hunt asked if 43% of the property would have green space.

Mr. Frost said, "Yes, so basically everything in the green areas will be considered common, open space."

Council Member Hunt asked if there would be parks or walking trails in there.

Kai Unger from Leoterra replied, "I think across Jimmy's Creek we'll have some walking trails and gazebos, but other than that, there's no amenities."

Council Member Hunt asked, "There's no development across the creek?"

Mr. Unger replied, "No. That's right."

Council Member Williams asked how much of the open space would be in the flood

plain.

Mr. Unger answered, "6.5 acres out of almost 70."

Council Member Williams asked if that included the open space.

Mr. Unger confirmed that did include the open space.

Council Member Bratton asked if the buildings would be 2-story or 3-story.

Mr. Unger answered that they would be 2-story.

Council Member Sellars asked about the price of the homes.

Mr. Unger said the survey came back saying they would cost \$300,000 - \$350,000.

Council Member Hunt asked if this project was going to be built in phases, and if so, what would be included in the first phase?

Mr. Unger replied that the phases weren't worked out yet, but there would probably be 3 phases.

Council Member Hunt asked if they would build all the roads first or build them as they built the houses.

Mr. Unger said they would build all the roads first, and then the houses would be built while the land construction was done. He anticipated the loop at the entrance would be done during phase 1, with the bottom half being the second phase and the top half being the third phase, "or something like that."

Council Member Hunt asked if the stormwater management ponds would be done during the first phase.

Mr. Frost said, "All ponds will be constructed during the first phase, but they will be what we call 'sediment ponds' for stormwater runoff... They will be constructed for the 100-year event, but they will not be considered water quality ponds. They will be considered sediment ponds where the water will be filtered off the top and released."

Council Member Hunt said, "My concern is that once you start clearing off everything, is the runoff going to catch there before it gets to Jimmy's Creek?"

Mr. Frost replied, "Yes, we will be containing all sediment and water." He said normally their sediment ponds are only big enough for a 10-year event, but they won't want to have to dig a bigger pond later, so they will do it to a 100-year benchmark size to start with.

Council Member Thrift asked if they had a timeframe estimate for completion of all three phases yet.

Mr. Unger guessed that it might be completed in 2024 or 2025 for an entire build with houses and all.

Council Member Williams asked if they have discussed changed to Business 85 with NCDOT.

Mr. Unger said that interstate is far enough away that changes wouldn't affect construction. In addition, turn lanes will be on Lexington Avenue to help with the traffic.

Mr. Frost said there will be coordination with NCDOT, once the rezoning is approved, to permit the entrances. At that time, they will direct the Developer in terms of their needs.

Council Member Thrift asked if they had a traffic study done at Lexington Avenue.

Mr. Frost said they did not, because they went ahead and added the turn lanes, so a traffic study wouldn't be necessary.

Council Member Shepherd asked if that would be considered widening the road to make turn lanes?

Mr. Frost said it would be "asymmetrical widening" on their property's side only.

With regard to stormwater, Ms. Matthews stated that an impact study would be required at the site plan stage.

Mr. Frost explained, "What they are requiring is for us to do a 100-year flood study on the internal stream that runs from north to south behind units 23, 24 between 38. We will have to perform a 100-year+ study on that branch."

Council Member Sellars asked for clarification about what type of homes they plan on building.

Ms. Matthew's said, "During the zoning process, we have prohibited uses and allowed uses, but right now, we have every intention of building townhome units there. The additional allowed uses just offers flexibility in the event that the market changes and (it becomes more feasible) to build single family, in addition to townhomes. But the plan, currently, based on the market study, is to do complete townhomes, which is indicated on the site plan."

Council Member Sellars asked if these townhomes would have any type of back yard or green space.

Ms. Matthew's said the townhomes are going to be 2-3 bedrooms, which would support family homes.

Mr. Unger said, "There will definitely be a backyard." (See the site plan with the darkened area behind each unit.) He added that 280 units is the highest/max that they want to do. They may do less.

Mr. Frost said open space #3 (on the site map) is where the mail kiosk will go. "My thought is that would also be somewhat like a 'pocket park' type setup there, too."

Council Member Williams asked if City Council also has the authority to also set conditions.

Planning Director George confirmed that City Council can add additional restrictions or conditions.

Mayor York asked if anyone else wished to speak FOR this rezoning.

Property owner William Hinkle came forward. He said he was ready to part with the property and hoped that the City Council would approve the rezoning to expand the possibilities in that section of town.

No one else came forward to speak for or against the rezoning.

Mayor York asked that the following email from Cindy Wright be included as part of the record:

12/20/2021

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

My name is Cindy Wright, I reside at 325 E Meadow Rd, Thomasville NC 27360. Most of you know me, if not personally, your familiar with my name. I will be speaking on behalf of my entire street. Unfortunately, due to the number of years (since 2003) we have had to come before the City Council to address this one issue,

many times and now many of my neighbors are not physically able to attend due to medical issues such as Prostate Cancer, Parkinson disease, Hip and Knee problems and aneurysm's, along with Mental anguish due to emotional distress this continues to cause us. Others have chosen not to attend after the way our neighbors were treated at the last Planning and Zoning meeting, their prospective is "everyone's mind is made up", "it's all about the money and tax revenue", "you have to have money to fight money", "some people are on the board for personal reasons". At the Planning and Zoning meeting, the attorney for the developer made the statement "they had a "zoom like meeting several weeks before and only had 3 or 4 people zoom in and there was not much push back from that meeting." That was wrong, I know 1 person upset during that zoom meeting and 3 people on my street including myself tried to log into the meeting, only to be sent to a woman's personal site several times, and we were NOT allowed to tell the council that. Money is the root of all evil, and last time we checked no u-hauls were going to heaven, and we are so tired of having to fight for something we have worked so hard for only to have OUR voices fall on death ears and OUR CITY continues to ignore THEIR own citizens voices. It's going to take someone being killed or house washed away before the city will do anything, and it will take Lawsuits for the City to admit anything. Due to the severally of the floods becoming worst each time it rains **someone** is going to drown and home's will be destroyed. WATER FLOWS DOWN HILL.

Again, our homes were not built in a flood zone. We lived there before any flooding occurred. We did not ask for this nor do we deserve it. No flooding issues until Sewer Line put in 2002, and a sub-division was built upstream from us without a water shed, and we get all the runoff from the hospital. We, your citizens who pay your city and county taxes are disregarded and treated just like the water from all the runoffs upstream from us. We have come before you in the past and were successful in being able to stop any building on a lot on Harmon Dr due to flooding issues and were told this would not be an issue again, only for the land to be sold and houses were built on that property without anyone being notified. What happen? Creek is still there. The city can pull our files and see everything we have said and done. It will back up what we have been saying for years.

At this time, I am putting in a request that each resident that lives on the creek side of E Meadow Rd be notified of anything being done up or down stream 5 miles from us. Since we are the ones in a flood zone, and the ones responsible for cleanup without any Help from the City. Anyone with a mortgage is required to have flood insurance, and that applies to most of us, however since we have had to file multiple flood claims, if we file another claim, they will cancel our policy. In other words, we pay \$2000.00 year for flood insurance and cannot file any claims. The City or Developers need to pay our flood insurance and the cost of cleanup after a flood.

I have not been wrong about many issues in the past and I can promise you what is going to happen if this entire site on Lexington Ave is approved. It will only be a matter of time before the lower sections of this development are flooded and the storm water pond compromised. We also want to know what is going to happen to the property located on the other side of the creek. Are more townhomes going to be built? We the citizens are entitled to know. This needs to be discussed before this project is finalized. The plans for the development show there are 2 pedestrian bridges, however last time I checked there was only one bridge left, the other has been washed away. The old main road that used to cross the bridge located up from my home is now laying in the creek.

The flood zone continues to grow wider due to the erosions, and the last FEMA map now show's part of our street is now in a flood zone and has to be closed due to flooding. With every flood my neighbor's and I continue to lose trees, dirt and rock that we have paid for and put down to help stop the erosion. Our backyards are falling into the creek. There is too much water, and the current is so strong that it moves buildings and when you start seeing Full grown trees with roots, Dead animals like Deer's, Blue Herons, Red tail Hawks, turtles, squirrels, dogs, turkeys, cats and even a horse float down the creek something is wrong. Did you know that most box turtles spend nearly their entire lives within an area the size of a football field? If relocated, they will wander until they find their way back home. We are tired of having

to clean up all the hazardous mess, dead animals and sand that is left after we have flooded with no help from the city.

This company is also developing land in Trinity/Archdale area and the residents in those areas are in the process of trying to stop anymore development from any developers. They have actually started a petition to stop all building due to all the new traffic problems, overpopulation of schools and destroying of land. Animals especially Deer are constantly being hit and killed. There is an app online called Nextdoor, it is free, and anyone can see and use it. There are pages after pages about this problem which is going to start happening in Thomasville. Pilot School is already full of students, there are accidents every week at the intersection of business 85 (29/70) where the southbound land is trying to turn left onto the road in front of the old fire department. If someone hits an animal or we are involved in a wreck, again it is our Insurance Company that pay's, not the city's, not the developers, US. There are only 2 roads coming out of this development of (280 +) townhomes, (400 +) cars coming onto Lexington Ave. Add that to the current problem with pilot school traffic and with this being a main road to the Hospital, it is a major wreck waiting to happen. At some point Our City Officials need to get a backbone and stand up for the people of Thomasville. You say you speak on our behalf, well that is yet to be proven.

At this time, I have paint falling from my ceiling, my foundation is cracking from all the pressure from the floods. Where the sewer line was installed behind my house, the area was cleared off and now there are deep ruts caused by runoffs forming and it is pushing more dirt and sand into the creek. This is also happening now up and down the street where the sewer line was installed. Gets worst every hard rain.

We have asked some questions in the red highlight area above. Could someone please let us know what the answers are?

Thank you in advance for any consideration given. We pray that you will require more time so you can address our questions. This would be a different issue if it were homes, we were talking about instead of townhomes. Thomasville is a Hometown.

Cindy Wright and residents of E Meadow Road (creek side)

Mayor York advised Council that they can recommend removal or addition of conditions. They could also table this hearing until another time to request a traffic study.

Council Member Thrift moved that Council "table this vote until next month and keep the public hearing open until a traffic study can be conducted and presented to Council." Council Member Williams seconded. *Motion approved 6 – 1.* Council Member Hunt voted against this motion.

6. CONSENT AGENDA - City Manager Brandt summarized these items as follows:

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Briefing Meeting on 11/08/21
- B. Approval of Minutes of the Council Meeting on 11/15/21
- C. Consideration of Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Retired K9 Officer "Kaizer"

K9 Officer Kaizer has served Thomasville since 2014. Currently, his handler is Officer Ryan Amos. As allowed under state law, the City will transfer ownership of Kaizer to Officer Amos, who will be responsible for Kaizer and will provide a loving home for Kaizer during his retirement.

- D. Consideration of Adoption of FY 21-22 Budget Amendment for donation from Thomas Austin Finch Foundation

The Recreation Dept. received a grant from the T. Austin Finch Foundation for the construction of a picnic shelter and other items at the new Aquatic Center in the amount of \$60,000. This budget amendment accepts and allocates those

funds. City Manager Brandt thanked the Foundation for this contribution for much needed amenities at the new Aquatics and Community Center, which will add value to the project and facility and will help us better serve the citizens of Thomasville.

E. Consideration of Grant Project Ordinance – 2021 Thomasville PD JAG Grant

The TPD received a grant from the US Dept. of Justice for the purchase of body cameras, communication gear and other equipment. A project ordinance is required to allocate these funds for expenditure.

F. Consideration of Amendment to 2022 Thomasville City Council Meeting Dates Schedule

This amendment to the meeting schedule changes the date of the January Committee meetings from January 5th to January 4th to accommodate a City Council member's work schedule.

G. Consideration of Resolution Adopting the State's Record Retention and Disposition Schedule Updated 10/29/21

The State's Record Retention and Disposition Schedule was updated 10/29/21, so Thomasville has to re-adopted it.

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

7. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Chapter 78-462, Schedule 2, 25-Miles-Per-Hour Speed Zones on State Roads

City Manager Brandt explained that the NCDOT has requested that Council adopt an ordinance to adopt a 25 mph school speed zone approx. 250 feet west of and a point approx. 500 ft. southeast of Thomasville Middle and High School properties to match the ordinance that the State is placing on Unity Street.

Mayor *Pro Tem* Sellars moved that Council approve this Ordinance. Council Member Shepherd seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

B. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Enforcement of Certain Sections of the City of Thomasville Code of Ordinances by Adding Criminal Penalties (per Senate Bill 300)

City Attorney Whitman explained that Senate Bill 300, which is part of the Criminal Justice Reform package, requires municipalities to decriminalize certain ordinances that are thought to affect the impoverished population more than others.

She worked with Thomasville Police Chief Kattner to isolate which ordinances should have no penalties and which ordinances should have civil penalties.

Attorney Whitman asked Council to consider this amendment, which removes automatic criminal penalties and brings Thomasville in line with State law.

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

C. Consideration of Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Capital Improvement Plan FY23-34

City Manager Brandt asked Council to consider approving this Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund CIP for FY 23-34, so the State will have it on record which projects we intend to undertake over the next number of years.

He said it is an essential requirement to be considered for State grants or loan programs that help restore and maintain the City's utility infrastructure. There are currently 25 projects that have been identified as part of this CIP.

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

D. Consideration of Adoption of FY 21-22 Budget Amendment Recognizing Various Revenues and Appropriations in the General, Water/Sewer and Golf Funds

City Manager Brandt said this amendment appropriates unbudgeted revenue totaling \$26,108 in the General Fund, which includes insurance proceeds from police vehicle accidents, a \$1,000 contribution from the Girl Scouts of America to the Police Department K9 Unit to purchase a new K9 officer, FY 2021 Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant funding for the Police Department and safety grant funding from the N.C. League of Municipalities which helps league members purchase equipment and services to reduce the potential for future workers' compensation, property/casualty, or liability insurance claims.

The amendment appropriates \$38,444 of Water/Sewer Fund revenue from insurance proceeds for fence damage at the Waste Treatment Plant and lightning damage at the Water Treatment Plant.

The amendment also appropriates \$6,600 in the Golf Course Fund for the sale of a 1989 Ford Tractor.

Council Member Hunt moved to approve this Budget Amendment. Mayor *Pro Tem* Sellars seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

E. Consideration of Contract with Home Solutions of Davidson County for \$32,000

Consideration of contract with Home Solutions of Davidson County (formerly Lexington Housing CDC) to provide support for community in areas of affordable housing, housing counseling, foreclosure mitigation and urgent repairs for elderly and/or disabled homeowners, veterans, and single parent households. This was budgeted in the FY 22, but a new contract is necessary for this year. He said the contract is for \$32,000, which is \$2,000 more than last year.

Council Member Shepherd moved to approve this contract. Council Member Thrift seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

F. Call for Public Hearing for Economic Development Project Viceroy on January 18, 2022 at 7003 Ball Park Road, Thomasville, NC at 6:00 P.M.

Davidson County EDC President Craig Goodson requested that Council call for this Public Hearing to consider an economic development project for an existing manufacturer in Thomasville. Other states are trying to get this project, and if they succeed, Thomasville may lose the existing manufacturer. But if Thomasville is chosen, the minimum capital investment would be \$14M - \$22M and 75-96 new jobs *and* ensure that we keep their 100 existing jobs in Thomasville. The average wage would be \$47,000, which is \$2,000 more than the Davidson County average wage.

Council Member Hunt moved to have this public hearing as stated. Council Member Thrift seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS, MAYOR'S REPORT AND APPOINTMENTS, CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT
(Note: Council Member activity lists are on file with the City Clerk and are available upon request.)

Mayor York and the City Council Members wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and a happy new year.

Council Member Williams will submit her list of last month's activities to the City Clerk. She said she really enjoys being on City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Sellars will submit her list of last month's activities to the City Clerk. She said she appreciates City Staff for the hard work that they do.

Council Member Shepherd submitted her list of last month's activities to the City Clerk.

Council Member Thrift will submit his list of last month's activities to the City Clerk.

Council Member Bratton submitted his list of last month's activities to the City Clerk.

Council Member Hunt has submitted his list of last month's activities to the City Clerk.

He thanked City personnel, especially the department heads, and legal counsel for the new Council Member training and tours that they did. He said it really helped them get up-to-speed. He said, "I appreciate all the employees who helped out and showed us around and were very gracious when we asked questions... I also would like to thank the remaining members from the last council for being so helpful and gracious to us as we come on, and also some of the prior council members who have offered counsel to the new people and helped us in a lot of ways to get up-to-speed. People don't realize there's a lot that goes on here. They don't see behind the scenes. And I appreciate it."

Council Member Shell submitted her list of last month's activities to the City Clerk.

Mayor York submitted his list of last month's activities to the City Clerk.

He also reported that there were two ribbon cuttings last month: at Lily and Vine Boutique and at Nature's Cottage. He welcomed these two new businesses to Thomasville.

He said it was a treat for him to get to meet with the staff of every shift at the fire department, over a three consecutive days, for their Christmas Luncheons, as well as many of the other holiday gatherings in other departments. He said, "I just appreciate all of our employees so very much. They do so much for us and for our citizens. They are really dedicated to their professions. I really thank them so much for that."

He and Council have been able to attend other holiday dinners and gatherings, including some giveaways for children in the community. He wanted to thank everyone who was involved in those.

He also enjoyed having a group of children visit City Hall and talk with Santa Claus.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

He also wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He said, "We have a lot of work to do in the new year, and I look forward to working with all of you."

He thanked Robert Gilmore, his classmate Delma Somber-Thompson from the Bulldog class of 1973, and his niece Porsche Gilmore and other relatives for dropping off 150 packages (of needs like socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc.) for the less fortunate and homeless in Thomasville. He said those were distributed to non-profit organizations that serve the homeless here in the community.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT AND ACTIVITIES

City Attorney Whitman has kept very busy keeping up with legislation regarding COVID and other things.

She asked that everyone keep the victims in Kentucky in their thoughts. She has been working with her connections at the State Bar to assist those people affected by the tragedy in Kentucky.

Mayor York welcomed Eddie Bowling to his new position at Assistant City Manager.

9. CLOSED SESSION for an Attorney/Client issue.

Council Member Thrift moved that Council go into closed session for an attorney/client issue. Council Member Williams seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

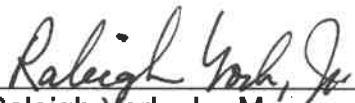
No action was taken in closed session.

Council Member Thrift moved that Council go into open session. Mayor *Pro Tem* Sellars seconded. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*

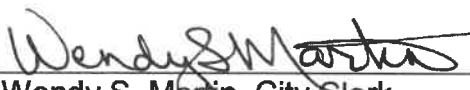
10. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor *Pro Tem* Sellars moved to adjourn this meeting; Council Member Shell seconded the motion. No discussion. *Motion unanimously approved 7 – 0.*





Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor



Wendy S. Martin, City Clerk