

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE THOMASTON MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

A virtual meeting of the Thomaston Mayor and City Council was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the city-county meeting room of the Thomaston-Upson Government Complex.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA CITY OF THOMASTON YOUTUBE PAGE

LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR1F8V1o6j-67nNYbOysNwg>

Mayor J. D. Stallings presided at the meeting with Councilmembers Don Greathouse, Doug Head, Jeff Middlebrooks, Lakeitha Reeves and Ryan Tucker. Others attending were Russell Thompson, City Manager; DeAnn Wheeler, City Attorney and Chief Mike Richardson.

Mayor Stallings opened the meeting with prayer by Chief Richardson and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Stallings presented the minutes of December 15, 2020, (public hearing) and December 15, 2020, (regular) for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the minutes as written.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda – Mayor Stallings presented the agenda for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Reeves, to approve the agenda as presented.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Appointments of City Officials – Mayor Stallings presented the annual appointments of City Officials. A motion was made by Councilmember Middlebrooks, seconded by Councilmember Tucker, to appoint DeAnn Wheeler as City Attorney; Reshann Adams as City Auditor and Gail Hammock as City Clerk.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's Report.

1. Approval of 2021 Municipal Election / Qualifying Fees / Election Date – Mrs. Hammock presented the qualifying notice for approval by Council that includes the upcoming 2021 Municipal Election. She noted that the Municipal Election will be held November 2, 2021, for the electing of a Mayor Pro Tem (Councilmember-at-Large), Councilmember District 3 and Councilmember District 4. The qualifying dates will be August 16 through August 20th and the qualifying fees for Councilmember-at-Large is \$243.00 and Councilmember for District 3 or 4 is \$216.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to approve the qualifying notice for the 2021 Municipal Election.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report.

1. Approval of Amendment to the Cemetery Ordinance – Increase Size of Grave Markers for Two Grave Lot in Southview Cemetery – Mr. Thompson presented an amendment to the cemetery ordinance. He noted that the amendment includes increasing the size of the horizontal markers (flat bronze) to 48 inches in length, 20 inches in width with a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch rise and markers made of granite or marble not to exceed 48 inches in length, 20 inches in width with 4-inch rise. Mr. Thompson noted that it is staff's recommendation to approve the amendment to the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Head, to adopt the amendment to the cemetery ordinance to increase the size of the horizontal markers to 48 x 20. Ordinance Number 1142.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Selection of Consultant – Downtown Revitalization Plan – Mr. Thompson noted that the DDA advertised for consultants to assist with a revitalization plan for the downtown area. He noted that the DDA applied for a rural zone grant to assist with the cost of the plan. Mr. Thompson noted that the City budgeted \$30,000. He noted that the DDA received six proposals and four were interviewed. He noted that it is staff's recommendation to select WLA Studio as the consultant and will request a scope of work with the cost and will bring back to Council for approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to approve WLA Studio as the consultant for the revitalization plan for the Downtown Development Authority District.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Authorization of Execution of Contract Documents with McWright, LLC for Construction of New Fire Station – Mr. Thompson noted that contract documents from McWright for the construction of the new fire station. He noted that the total amount of the contract is \$2,382,110.00. He noted that it is staff's recommendation to authorize Mayor Stallings to execute said documents.

Ms. Wheeler noted that this is a very standard contract. She noted that the mistake listed the architect under contractor representative (8.3) instead of the contractor's name.

A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Head, to approve the contract as submitted with the minor correction of the contractor's name.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Timber Harvesting Ordinance – Mr. Thompson presented an ordinance regarding harvesting of timber inside the city limits. He noted that the City does not currently have an ordinance to regulate the operations. He noted that the ordinance is similar to the County's ordinance. Mr. Thompson noted that the permit requires a bond or letter of credit not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Ms. Wheeler noted that she reviewed the County's ordinance and the State law. Mr. Thompson noted that it is staff's recommendation to approve the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to adopt a harvesting of timber ordinance. Ordinance Number 1143.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Appointments to City Committees and Joint City-County Committees – Councilmember Tucker requested that this item be tabled until a work session can be held to discuss appointees. Seconded by Councilmember Greathouse.

The consensus of Council agreed to meet on Friday, January 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

1. Mr. Thompson requested an executive session to discuss real estate, pending or potential litigation and personnel.

A motion was made by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Reeves, to go into executive session to discuss real estate, pending or potential litigation and personnel.

Those voting: Councilmember Greathouse – yes, Councilmember Middlebrooks – yes, Councilmember Reeves – yes, Councilmember Head – yes, Councilmember Tucker – yes
All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Council closed the open meeting to go into executive session at 7:32 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Middlebrooks, seconded by Councilmember Reeves, to close the executive session and return to the open meeting. All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Council closed the executive session and returned to the open meeting at 8:06 p.m.

There being no further business, Councilmember Reeves made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Head, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Hammock
City Clerk