

**MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
THOMASTON MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

A virtual meeting of the Thomaston Mayor and City Council was held on Tuesday, March 2, 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 and DeAnn Wheeler, City Attorney.

Mayor Stallings opened the meeting with prayer by Councilmember Head and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Stallings presented the minutes of February 12, 2021, February 16, 2021, February 19, 2021, and February 23, 2021, for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to approve the minutes as written.

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

Adoption of Agenda – Mayor Stallings presented the agenda for approval. Councilmember Head asked Council to table appointments to the Community Relations Committee. He noted that he needed more time to reach out to contacts and would like to discuss this item. He noted that by the next Council he would be ready with the appointments. Councilmember Reeves asked that Council wait until the next meeting.

Councilmember Head made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reeves, to approve the agenda as presented but to amend #1 under the City Manager's Report, Discussion only of the Community Relations Committee and make appointments at the next Council meeting.

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

Recognition of Achievement – Russell Thompson – ICMA Credentialed Manager – Mayor Stallings noted that Mr. Thompson is being recognized for his accomplishment in receiving his certificate from the International City Management Association Credentialed Manager Program. Mayor Stallings noted that "ICMA'S mission is to advance professional local government through leadership, management, innovation, and ethics and by increasing the proficiency of appointed

chief administrative officers, assistant administrators, and other employees who serve local governments and regional entities around the world. To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government; have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field; and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development." Mayor Stalling and along with the Council noted their appreciation for the dedication to his work and is doing a great job!

City Clerk's Report.

Reminded Council of the Groundbreaking ceremony for the new fire station. It will be held on Friday, March 12th, at 11:00 a.m.

City Manager's Report.

1. Discussion of Community Relations Committee – Mayor Stallings noted that Council had previously agreed that there would be five (5) members, one member from each Council district and has to receive a super majority vote by Council.

There was discussion about the best representation in your district and if you can make an appointment outside of your district. Consensus of Council was to pick two names from each Council district and the appointment would be a two (2) year term. Also agreed that the appointment would have to receive a majority vote from Council.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to select individuals within each Council district to serve a two-year term and receive a super majority vote from Council. The names should be submitted to the City Manager by Friday, March 12th.

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

2. Approval of Authorization to Execute City Engineering Contract - Mr. Thompson presented the annual contract for City Engineering services from ESG Engineering. He noted that there are no changes to the contract. He noted that it is staff's recommendation to authorize the execution of the contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Greathouse, to approve the City Engineering Contract with ESG Engineering upon City Attorney review.

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

3. Approval of Authorization to Execute City Engineer Contract/USDA – Mr. Thompson presented the contract for the engineering services for USDA grant/loan. He stated that the lump sum for the services is \$448,023.00. He noted that USDA requires a full-time resident inspector on the job site. He noted that it is staff's recommendation to authorize the execution of the engineering contract for the USDA grant.

A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to authorize the approval and execution of the engineering contract for professional services for the USDA grant.

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

4. Approval of Authorization to Amend Cemetery Ordinance – Addition of Single Grave Lots, Section G, 59-230 – Mr. Thompson presented the request to add single grave lots in Section G. He stated that we have two ordinances to consider, one is without headstones and other with headstones and markers.

A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Tucker, to adopt the ordinance that would allow the single grave lots in Section G, 59-230, and only markers flushed with the ground are allowed.

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

5. Approval of Authorization to Create Public Works Director Position and Set Salary Range – Mr. Thompson presented the Public Works Director job description and salary range. He noted that the Public Works Director position would be over the Parks and Public Spaces department and Street department. The job description was created when the Carl Vinson Institute reviewed the job descriptions and salaries. He noted that the salary range is a Grade 23 at \$64,179.32 to \$86,472.74. He noted that it is staff's recommendation to approve the job description and pay scale.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Reeves, to approve the Public Works Director job description and pay scale (\$64,179.32 to \$86,472.74).

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

6. Discussion of Brown Bag Ordinance – Mr. Thompson read the definition for brown bag – Brown bag establishment means any restaurant, establishment or event providing food or entertainment in the normal course of business, or premises licensed hereunder, and in which the owners or their agents knowingly allow patrons to bring in and consume the patrons' alcoholic beverage.

Mr. Thompson noted that a local business is wanting to rent their venue out for weddings and other events, but they do not have alcohol license. He noted that the patrons would bring their own alcohol to the event. Mr. Thompson noted that the current ordinance does not allow you to do this without alcohol license.

Mr. Thompson noted that Ms. Wheeler is drafting a new alcohol license ordinance for Council to consider. Council discussed their concerns, but no action was taken.

7. Discussion of Concert and Special Event Permits for Chamber of Commerce to Utilize the Silvertown Ball Park – Mr. Thompson noted that the Chamber of Commerce has inquired about holding a concert at the Silvertown Ballpark, but wanted to have alcohol at the event.

Mr. Thompson noted that we own the property, but we have a lease with the Board of Education to use the complex for sports. He noted that the lease is not all inclusive and does not preclude the City. He noted that this will not jeopardize or violate school grounds. He noted that the other point the Chamber is 501c3 and this could possibly open up other organizations with this classification.

Ms. Wheeler noted that she reviewed the lease and the last revision is dated 2008. The School Board provides liability insurance and if the Chamber were to use the ballpark, they would have to provide liability insurance. Mr. Thompson noted that he called Mr. Derrico, School Superintendent, about the use. He noted that the Board of Education does provide the liability insurance.

There was discussion about the use of the park and COVID restrictions. Mr. Thompson noted that he will get more information from the Chamber.

There was no action taken.

8. Discussion of Demolition of the Old Municipal Building - Mayor Stallings noted that he has had people to contact him about what the City's plans for the old municipal building. He noted that we have put a lot of money into it, but we have not had any luck on leasing it. Councilmember Tucker noted that there has been a lot of money put into the building

and repairing the roof. Councilmember Middlebrooks noted that we need to hold to the building due to maybe relocating city offices. There was discussion about using the building for training, renovating the basement, and for future use.

There was no action taken.

Other Business:

1. Mr. Thompson noted that the information received from ECG about the power cost adjustment shortfall for the three months is estimated to be \$40,829. He noted that if the power cost adjustment put back into effect the cost would go from \$1.56 to \$1.99 to make up the \$190,000 annual debt.
2. Councilmember Greathouse noted that he would like to revisit the dog park and look at the area at the Silvertown Ballpark.
3. Mayor Stallings noted that the next clean up day will be Saturday, March 13th starting at Matthews Field parking lot at 8:30 a.m. He noted that the last few weeks several volunteers have picked up trash along the road.

Mayor Stallings noted that the Girls basketball team won region and now is headed to play for the state championship.

4. Mr. Thompson asked for an executive session to discuss personnel, pending and/or potential litigation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Tucker, to go into executive session to discuss personnel, pending and/or potential litigation. All votes were aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Council closed the open meeting to go into executive session at 8:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Middlebrooks, seconded by Councilmember Tucker, 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 8:50 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Middlebrooks, seconded by Councilmember Reeves, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Hammock
City Clerk