

MINTUES OF A MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

April 6, 2021 at 7:00PM

A virtual meeting of the Thomaston Mayor and City Council was held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00pm in the city-county meeting room of the Thomaston-Upson Government Complex.

Mayor J.D. Stallings presided at the meeting with Councilmembers Don Greathouse, Doug Head, Jeff Middlebrooks, and Lakeitha Reeves. Councilmember Ryan Tucker was not present. Others in attendance included: Russell Thompson, City Manager; Deann Wheeler, City Attorney; Gail Hammock, City Clerk; and Sidney Corley, Police Major.

Mayor Stallings opened the meeting with a prayer by Councilmember Doug Head then followed with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Stallings thanked Mountain View Baptist Church for the cookies and brownies that they brought by before the meeting began. He then presented the meeting minutes of March 16, 2021, for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to approve the minutes as written.

Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Reeves, and Head. All votes were yes and the motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda – Mayor Stallings presented the agenda for approval. Mr. Thompson requested an additional item be added to the agenda – “Reinstitution of public comment and re-opening of meetings to the general public.” This was added as number seven on the agenda for discussion and potential action. A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Reeves.

Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Reeves, and Head. All votes were yes and the motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney's Report.

Deann Wheeler mentioned there will be a validation hearing on April 7, 2021 at 8:30a.m. for the USDA loans which is one of the final steps.

City Clerk's Report.

Oasis Nichols gave a short update that her first week was going well and she is enjoying working with everyone.

City Manager's Report.

1. Approval of Acceptance of Donation of Property from B.F. Goodrich (Raytheon Technologies). – Mr. Thompson noted that the property would be gifted to the city and that staff recommended acceptance of this property contingent to clear title and confirmation that there is no debt owed. A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Head to approve the donation of this property (Parcel ID T19054). Deann Wheeler mentioned the only other concern would be if the parcel is not standing alone and is part of a larger lot, it would need surveying.

Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Reeves, and Head. All votes were yes and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of a Joint Use Attachment Audit between the City and TRC (Utility poles). – Mr. Thompson asked Mayor and Council if item number two could be tabled due to staff not being ready to present the agreement at this time. A motion was made by Councilmember Middlebrooks, seconded by Councilmember Head, to table agenda item number two.

Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Reeves, and Head. All votes were yes and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Appointment to Thomaston-Upson Library Board. - Mr. Thompson noted that there was a vacancy for Council's consideration and Mayor Stallings mentioned that the term expires June 30, 2021 and if Council did not have any nomination to be thinking of potential nominees. There were no nominations. No action was taken.
4. Approval of Amendment to the Sign Ordinance. – Mr. Thompson noted that during the Historic Preservation Commission meeting there was a sign request for a business located at 200 West Main Street. This property address is within the historic district and would require a certificate of appropriateness prior to the issuance of a building permit to erect the sign. The current sign ordinance does not have provisions for projecting wall signs. The modified sign ordinance that is being proposed has updated language that would allow for projected wall signs with setbacks and specific requirements. A motion was made by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Reeves.

Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Reeves, and Head. All votes were yes and the motion was carried out unanimously.

5. Discussion of Animal Control Ordinance. – Mr. Thompson mentioned that Councilmember Greathouse requested to add this to the agenda and he deferred to Council. Councilmember Greathouse noted he has received complaints in regards to roosters crowing, feral cats, dangerous dogs in neighborhoods, as well as other various domestic animal complaints. Councilmember Greathouse noted that the city animal ordinance should be updated and enforced. Mr. Thompson mentioned that what is allowed and not allowed should be revisited. Councilmember Middlebrooks noted that he once had similar issues in his district with domestic fowl, such as chickens, causing disturbances on other's properties. Mr. Thompson shared that upon Council's wishes modifications can be made regarding the animal control ordinance verbiage and or language. He then recommended adding stricter setback requirements surrounding structures. Mayor and Council choose to revisit this agenda item.
6. Discussion and Approval of Court Reporter for Alcohol License Hearings. – Mr. Thompson brought up the fact that a court reporter is up for discussion due to the alcohol license hearings being a court proceeding where verbatim transcribing may be a good idea. Councilmember Reeves stated that for this first round of hearings, a court reporter may be beneficial to determine what exactly the city may need for future hearings. Deann Wheeler mentioned that

these hearings are a due process procedure and that to ensure the city is covered, a certified record would be ideal. Mayor Stallings also noted that a court reporter may be best when it comes to the hearings. A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks.

Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Reeves, and Head. All votes were yes and the motion was carried out unanimously.

7. Approval of Reinstitution of Public Comment and Public Meeting Attendance. – Mr. Thompson noted that public participation would be effective on or after April 8, 2021. Mayor Stallings encouraged the Council to allow opening the meetings up to the public. Councilmember Head, asked about possibly requiring social distancing, wearing masks, and following the Governor's safety regulations. A motion was made by Councilmember Reeves, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to reinstate public comment and open the regular city council meetings to the public while following the Governor's orders.

Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Reeves, and Head. All votes were yes and the motion was carried out unanimously.

Other Business. – Mayor Stallings mentioned the upcoming Arbor Day Ceremony. The ceremony is going to be held April 14, 2021, at Greatest Generational Park at 1:30p.m. Councilmember Reeves asked Mr. Thompson about setting up a meeting for the new Community Relations Committee. Mr. Thompson confirmed a preliminary meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2021 at 1:00p.m. The meeting will be publicly advertised and Council is welcomed to attend.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Reeves, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:23p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Oasis Nichols
Deputy City Clerk