

## Meeting Minutes of The Mayor and City Council

June 29, 2021 at 7:00PM

A meeting of the Thomaston Mayor and City Council was held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at 7:00pm on the main floor of the Thomaston-Upson Government Complex, in the City-County meeting room. This meeting was open to the public as well as livestreamed on The Thomason City YouTube Channel.

Mayor J.D. Stallings called the meeting to order and was in attendance with Councilmembers Don Greathouse, Jeff Middlebrooks, Ryan Tucker, Lakeitha Reeves, and Doug Head. Others in attendance included: Russell Thompson, City Manager; Deann Wheeler, City Attorney; Taylor Smith, Economic Development Coordinator; Public comment speakers: Chris Daniel and Fred Piper; and Oasis Nichols, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Stallings asked Councilmember Don Greathouse to lead the meeting with a prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

- A. Call Meeting to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2021 (Regular) and Minutes of June 11, 2021 (Special Called) Meetings - A motion was made by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks to approve both meeting minutes as written. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously.
- C. Adoption of Agenda - A motion was made by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Reeves to adopt the agenda as is. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously.
- D. Introduction of New Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith – Mr. Smith came to the meeting and gave a brief introduction to City Council and the community.
- E. Public Hearing - Annexation Request of State Farm on 1070 Highway 19 N, Mr. Robert Fallin – City Manager, Mr. Thompson opened the public hearing and gave a brief description of the property. Mayor Stallings asked if anyone in the public would like to speak against or for the annexation of Mr. Fallin's property. No one came forward to speak and a motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Reeves to close the public hearing. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously. Staff's recommendation is to authorize the annexation of State Farm on 1070 Highway 19 N which is 1.170 acres to be designated as

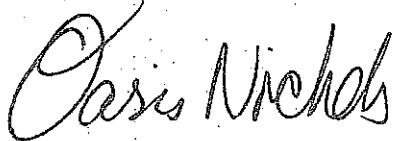
a C-2 zoned lot. A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks to approve the annexation and adopt the ordinance number 1155. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously.

- F. Public Comment – Mr. Chris Daniel came as a property owner and spoke regarding the old mill property behind Ingles needing to be cleaned up. Mr. Fred Piper came and spoke regarding his home in Sawmill Court. Mr. Piper expressed he had issues with neighbors leaving trash cans at the roadside, illegal dumping near businesses, and construction debris in his neighborhood.
- G. City Attorney's Report – Ms. Wheeler mentioned she did have a potential litigation topic to discuss in executive session.
- H. City Clerk's Report – A few date reminders were given including: July 4<sup>th</sup> Freedom Fest, July 5<sup>th</sup> City Hall will be closed, July 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting was cancelled, as well as the upcoming Community Relations Committee meeting on July 12.
- I. City Engineer's Report – None.
- J. City Manager's Report
  - 1. Discussion / Approval of Juneteenth Holiday - A motion was made by Councilmember Reeves, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks to approve and adopt the Juneteenth holiday officially adding it to the city personnel policy. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously.
  - 2. Discussion / Approval of MEAG Power Solar Project – Mr. Thompson provided a brief explanation of this project and a potential agreement between the city, MEAG Power and Walmart. No action was taken.
  - 3. Discussion / Approval of Silver Town Tank / Verizon Wireless Agreement (Amendment 4) – Mr. Thompson explained the agreement has been modified regarding the Verizon Wireless equipment on the water tower in Silvertown. Staff's recommendation would be to execute this updated agreement. A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks to approve and execute this agreement subject to the City Attorney review. Those voting

include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously.

4. Authorization for Execution of GEFA Loan # CW2020033 - A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Head to approve and execute any pertinent documentation needed to obtain the GEFA Loan # CW2020033. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously.
  5. Discussion of 2021 Tax Digest and Millage Rate – Mr. Thompson handed out a five-year history of the millage rate. Staff's recommendation is to not increase the millage rate but to instead use a roll back rate of 3.323.
- K. Other Business - Mr. Thompson mentioned the master sewer plan with Upson County. A meeting with city and county staff occurred earlier the morning of June 29<sup>th</sup> and progress seemed to be made. Mr. Thompson asked that a special called meeting be held on Friday, July 2, 2021 to ratify the agreement.
1. Set Work Session Date (Proposed Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am) A motion was made by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Reeves to approve the July 2, 2021 special called meeting at 9am. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously.
- L. Executive Session / Discussion/Potential Action - A motion was made by Councilmember Middlebrooks, seconded by Councilmember Reeves to enter into executive session at 7:43pm. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, Reeves, and Head. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously. The executive session ended and the meeting was back open to the public at 8:10pm.
- M. Adjournment - A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Reeves to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Oasis Nichols  
Deputy City Clerk