

Work Session Meeting Minutes of The Mayor and City Council

July 16, 2021 at 9:00AM

A meeting of the Thomaston Mayor and City Council was held on Friday, July 16, 2021, at 9:00am 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; Mike Richardson, Police Chief; Cornelious Ivey, Director of the Electric Department; Jennifer Sanz, HR Director; Kyle McGee, Public Works Director; Bobby Cunningham, GFL Operations Manager; Lonnie Joyce, Finance Director; Robert Ellington, Building Official; John Baxter, Code Enforcement Officer; 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. Finance Director, Lonnie Joyce: Review and Discussion of Financials (Six Months) - A brief breakdown of the city's financials was provided. The main three accounts were discussed as well as if each department is under or over budget and why.
- C. City Manager, Russell Thompson - Update and Discussion of City Projects – A generalized update of all city projects was provided. A few of the projects discussed were the city paving projects, CDBG projects, construction of new fire station, and water and sewer projects.
- D. GFL, Bobby Cunningham: Trash Discussion – Councilmember Ryan Tucker began stating he has had an increase in complaints within his district regarding inert material and or yard waste not being picked up. Councilmember Don Greathouse mentioned that in his neighborhood GLF is doing a good job; however, he has received complaints from constituents in the Sawmill Court neighborhood regarding trash cans being left at the end of the road and neighbors' trash being blown into the neighborhood. Councilmember Jeff Middlebrooks expressed that a couple months ago he had complaints about yard waste not being picked up for over two weeks. Councilmember Reeves stated that she had complaints about yard waste being left on the side of the road for over two weeks as well. Councilmember Doug Head asked what the requirements are for the inert materials and or yard waste to be picked up. Mr. Cunningham stated that GFL will be rerouting the city's

trash routes on August 23rd and that he is working on adding an additional truck to help get the yard waste caught up. He mentioned that door hangers are being left when the yard waste is not being left out in the correct spot or in the correct ways to educate the residents. Councilmember Ryan Tucker asked Mr. Cunningham what we can do as a city to help GFL get caught up. Mr. Cunningham stated that GFL should be caught up by the end of September.

A short break began at 10:15am and the meeting started back at 10:27am.

- E. HR Director, Jennifer Sanz: Discussion of Physical Agility Test as well as Specific Employee Grades and Compensation- Police Chief Mike Richardson partnered with HR Director Jennifer Sanz to bring before council the already vetted agility test for the police department. There was also discussion on the crossing guard pay compensation. A motion was made by Councilmember Head, seconded by Councilmember Greathouse to pay \$15.00 per hour for the crossing guards with a stepping pay increase. Meaning after 5 years of service the pay will increase to \$18.00 per hour for the crossing guard position. Those voting include: Councilmembers Greathouse, Middlebrooks, Tucker, and Head. Councilmember Reeves left the meeting early at 10:53am and was not there to vote. All votes were a yes and the vote was carried out unanimously. Mr. Cornelious Ivey the Director of the Electric Department partnered with the HR Director Jennifer Sanz to discuss the compression issues and payment compensation for an electric journeyman lineman position and a few staff who will be retiring soon.
- F. Police Chief, Mike Richardson: Discussion of A Crime Suppression Unit and Lack of Ambulance Services – Chief Richardson briefly spoke about adding a crime suppression unit to the police department and how that would be beneficial to the city.
- G. Public Works Director, Kyle McGee: Discussion of Revised FY21 Resurfacing List– Mr. McGee went over the road paving changes and presented to council why these modifications were made.
- H. City Councilmember, Don Greathouse: Homelessness in Thomaston – This topic was not discussed due to Councilmember Greathouse leaving the meeting at 11:08am. Councilmember Head stated that there is passion behind this topic and that the city should work towards an action plan before winter. This topic will be addressed at the regular City Council meeting on July 20, 2021.
- I. Other Business– Mayor Stallings mentioned scheduling a meeting with the landlords in the city to discuss code enforcement issues such as lawn maintenance.
- J. Adjournment - A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks to adjourn the meeting at 11:43am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oasis Nichols". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Oasis Nichols
Deputy City Clerk