

Work Session Meeting Minutes of The Mayor and City Council

August 13, 2021 at 9:00AM

A work session meeting of the Thomaston Mayor and City Council was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2021, at 9:00 am 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 live-streamed on The Thomaston City YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR1F8V1o6j-67nNYbOysNwg>).

Mayor J.D. Stallings called the meeting to order and was in attendance with Councilmembers Don Greathouse, Jeff Middlebrooks, Ryan Tucker, and Doug Head. Councilmember Lakeitha Reeves was not able to attend. Others in attendance included: Russell Thompson, City Manager; Bobby Ellington, City Building Official; John Baxter, City Code Enforcement Officer; Lonnie Joyce, City Finance Director; Jennifer Sanz, City HR Director; Kyle McGee, City Public Works Director; Mike Richardson, Police Chief; and Oasis Nichols, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Stallings asked Councilmember 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: Budget Amendments – Mr. Joyce gave a breakdown of the mid-year budget amendments that will need to be made and explained why each budget is over or under.

C. City Manager, Russell Thompson: Rent Rates – Councilmember Reeves asked Mr. Thompson to please table this topic until she could be present to participate in the discussion. A motion was made by Councilmember Greathouse, seconded by Councilmember Head to table this topic.

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

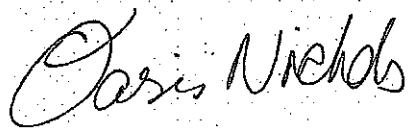
D. HR Director, Jennifer Sanz: Discussion of Covid-19 Protocol – Mrs. Sanz and Mr. Thompson asked for City Council’s recommendation on employee exposure and masking at work. The Council’s consensus was to encourage staff to wear masks and to follow CDC protocols. It was also in agreeance to get with Upson County and see what guidelines they are following so city and county can be on the same page since sharing the Thomaston-Upson Government Complex building. This topic will be added to the agenda for the August 19th, 2021 Joint Project Budget Meeting.

E. Public Works Director, Kyle McGee: Lake Thomaston Ribbon Cutting, New Citizen Engagement Platform “Textmygov”, and Staffing Concerns – Mr. McGee spoke to City Council and explained how the new Textmygov also known as a citizen engagement platform worked, he gave out the number to be used (706)427-0073, as well how the implementation process is going. Mr. McGee stated that Friday, October 8, 2021 will be the grand opening and ribbon cutting. A staffing issue has come up in the public works department due to Covid-19 hindering the two inmate crews that are typically utilized. Going forward into next year this department will be asking to possibly increase personnel and or contracting out the work for lawn services.

F. Other Business - An update was given by Mr. Ellington about code enforcement and trying to tackle one demolition per month to help abate any nuisance properties. They are averaging roughly 50-60 inspections a month and they are also working with the police department to have officers help issue citations for code enforcement for overtime.

G. Adjournment - A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilmember Middlebrooks to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 am. All votes were yes and the vote was carried out unanimously.

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