

**TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008
7:00 PM**

The scheduled meeting convened with Mayor Anna Maria Thomas presiding. Invocation was offered followed with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited in unison.

Present: Mayor, Anna Maria Thomas and Council Members: John Cheeks, Sr., Bobby J. Hardman, Beth E. Goette, Kimberly Chappell-Stevens, David P. Crenshaw and T. Gebel Seese, III. Town Attorney, Charles W. Barrow, Town Administrator, Robert Thomson and Clerk of Council, Rose M. McCombs were in attendance also.

Firsthand, Mayor Thomas amended the agenda by announcement of **Items (a) and (b)** under **OLD BUSINESS** to be removed from the agenda indefinitely.

- a) **Councilman David P. Crenshaw-**
Re: October 8, 2008 tabled item addressing delay of permitting on new well

- b) **Councilman David P. Crenshaw-**
Re: October 8, 2008 tabled item concerning Center Street Well

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

10/29/2008 - Public Hearing and Special Meeting
(2008 Tax Millage & Solid Waste Plan)

11/12/2008- Regular Monthly Meeting

The minutes reflected were approved upon motion tendered by Councilwoman Goette, seconded by Councilman Hardman. Discussion was made. Motion carried.

Monthly Finance Report- was presented by Finance Director, Brooks Adams in an improved manner (**Document Included and made a Part of These Minutes**). Accounts balances are being portrayed in a spreadsheet fashion; included are monthly increase or decrease activity figures. Data also reflects year-to-date activity totals. For the month of November 2008, operating accounts over all depicts an estimated \$166,967.00 decrease. Property tax revenue was communicated upon briefly with figures to reflect on December's report.

Additional information was announced as being withheld at this point, yet to be addressed after the Town Administrator's report with regards to water rates.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:
(Attached and made a Part of These Minutes)

Items Requiring Council's Consideration:

- I. Tiered Water Rate in Concept- basically will require the Town to increase the base water rate from \$3.23 to \$4.23. Tiered I, II and III figures are still being formulated. EPD merely ask approval of the tiered rate in concept. Those figures may be forwarded to EPD after the budget presentation on the 29TH assuming this is possible.

Motion to approve the *Tiered Rate in Concept* was tendered by Councilman Hardman, seconded by Councilwoman Goette. Motion carried unanimously.

Before further action was taken, Mr. Thomson outlined the remainder of the Town Administrator's Report. Language may be referred to on the provided attachment.

- II. Increase in Sanitation Rates-
- III. Adoption of the Grease Trap Ordinance-
- IV. Even-Odd watering Restriction Policy-
- V. Rain Sensor Policy- (First presented at the November Meeting)
- VI. Well- (Information on Lower Floridian Included). Information also to be expounded on by Councilman Crenshaw.

Items of Interest:

- Employee Benefits- employee meeting held at 5:30 P.M. on today. POS (Point of Service) Policy was presented, which is a Blue Cross/Blue Shield Plan where the only requirement to the employee is to choose a primary care provider such as an internist or general practice provider. *Major points of Interest includes:* Primary provider perform referral to specialist, zero deductible for employee and decrease premium to Town;
- Water First Designation- continued progress;
- Solid Waste Management Plan- Ed DiTommas in attendance for any questions presented;
- Senior Citizen's Charges- project re-activation after the first of the year;
- *New Staff-*
Chief Pennington acknowledged *Brenda Taylor* performing duties within the Police Department, and at present being a temporary employee with prior law enforcement experience from two agencies out of Massachusetts.

Brooks Adams introduced *Caroline Nguyen*, a graduate of Georgia Southern who takes on the position of Administrative Assistant. She has extensive background in Water Conservation Programs. Ms. Nguyen functions will be those of which Ms. Howard performed for more than 30 years with the Town. Mr. Adams voiced her as working quiet well.

Both appointees received a round of applause.

****Continuation on Items Requiring Council's Consideration:**

Councilman Seese rendered motion to approve the Grease Trap Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Crenshaw. Discussion was made regarding enforcement and fine associated should an establishment is found not to be in compliance. It was determined that fines would be left to the discretion of the judge. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was made concerning the Even/Odd Watering Restriction and Rain Sensor Policies. Questioned was *public awareness to these policies*. Mr. Adams communicated upon that along with the outsourcing of Utility Billing to QS1; provisions have been made to include a Newsletter. Any Town information may be addressed in this newsletter. A template is available in Mr. Adams's office should anyone wish to view it.

Attorney Barrow's purview was sought as to the difference of a policy and an ordinance. *A policy cannot be enforced by the court system.*

Councilman Seese emphasized the need of these policies for Water First and Conservation mandates.

Councilwoman Chappell-Steven rendered motion to approve both the Even/Odd Watering Restriction and Rain Sensor Policies, seconded by Councilman Hardman. Motion carried favorably.

Public input was received from Ms. Guymon whom addressed concerns to utility billing rates when irrigation is involved, especially when one does not have a shallow well as a form of irrigation.

At this point in session; water/sewer, garbage and the proposed new well matters were addressed. Mr. Adams began with *water fee comparison* data for the Town in contrast to other municipalities of like size (**Document Provided and made a Part of These Minutes**). Data for Town of Thunderbolt reflects of being among the cities having the lowest rate in the area of similar sized towns. Stated as to become solvent, rates for the Town would require an increase of \$9.92 for garbage and \$5.29 for water/sewer. Recycling Program was briefly addressed as requiring \$55 monthly per resident. Discussion was rendered at length.

Councilman Crenshaw followed with PowerPoint presentation as well as printed data on the following subjects (**Documents Included and made a Part of These Minutes**);

- **City of Savannah Water Cost Per/Gallon;**
- **New Well Cost Analysis – addresses Floridian and Lower Aquifers data; and**
- **Center Street Well Statistics.**

Further documentation provided addressed *Budget and Funding issues for Council and Community to consider.*

All items addressed beginning with Financial Report to this point present a major impact on the Town's operating budget and/or water restriction mandate. Highest source of revenue stream was stated as being LOST, SPLOST and Municipal Tax respectively, and of which SPLOST will be deferred from the Town for the next (2) years are more.

Expressive comments were received from both Mr. Truitt and Mr. Trabue.

Councilman Crenshaw rendered motion in concept to commission the Town Administrator and Finance Director to publish a proposed rate schedule of increase on services provided along with requirements for budget process; with instructions to have information published by Friday, December 12th. At the time of special meeting (public hearing) on December 29th, public input may be received and as well pass the budget, seconded by Councilman Hardman. Discussion was made. Councilman Seese amended the motion to

specify a concrete increase of \$3.00 on water/sewer and \$5.00 on garbage, seconded by Councilman Hardman. Councilman Cheeks opposed on the amended motion; however, both motions passed favorably.

Council agreed to December 29th as being the date to hold a public hearing and to set the 2009 Budget.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT:

John Cheeks- None.

Bobby J. Hardman-

- *Police Department-*

Chief Pennington reported on the Neighborhood Crime Watch Meeting held at the Senior Center as having a great attendance. The meeting went very well. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2009 for neighborhoods which wish to attend. Mechanics and Fennell Street residents met last week.

Break-ins were reported as being decreased. Actual occurrences for November were two.

Tara Nursing Home- open house on tonight. All invited to stop by.

- *Fire Department-* (Refer to provided report)

Beth E. Goette-

Announced the Thunderbolt Community Improvement Association's annual holiday luncheon for employees to be held on Friday, December 19, 2008 from 12:00 Noon – 3:00 P.M. Location stated to be at the Chappell's home.

Kimberly Chappell-Stevens-

Voiced of Museum Department performing wonderful job of maintaining records of history for Thunderbolt. Paperwork for computer upgrade announced as being submitted. Discussion was made on computer operation in general. Mr. Adams will investigate operation on tomorrow.

Mrs. Teeple addressed Christmas Tree Decoration contest along with Christmas Party on December 16, 2008 beginning at 6:00 P.M. The celebration is a covered dish event.

Museum website should be up and running January 2009.

Lastly, Mrs. Teeple informed of an establishment called Washington Story Cord that will be visiting the Museum in January 2009 with plans of performing an oral history session on Town of Thunderbolt.

David P. Crenshaw-

No additional report was made; however, Ms. McCombs was asked to report on delinquent taxes.

Provided for the period of November 12th through December 10th and estimated \$3,500 was collected in back taxes, per Ms. McCombs.

T. Gebel Seese-

No report given; however, advised of not waiting for the newsletter to advertise of rate increases, but to draft a letter to the townspeople informing them of all the items which has been discussed.

Councilwoman Goette took this opportunity to address water cut-off matters and of which Mr. Adams responded appropriately.

Mr. Magnuson was heard regarding recycling concerns. Questioned was the time frame for implementation. Mayor Thomas voiced that Thunderbolt is waiting for the County's bid process to be completed. Should their bid be feasible enough for Thunderbolt, then the Town will pursue the matter. The County's completion date for this process was conveyed as being January 2009. Mr. Magnuson voiced that residents may be willing to purchase bends. Additional discussion was made; however, no action was taken at this time.

6. **Legal Report:** None.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

a) **Councilman David P. Crenshaw-**

Re: October 8, 2008 tabled item addressing delay of permitting on new well

b) **Councilman David P. Crenshaw-**

Re: October 8, 2008 tabled item concerning Center Street Well

Although Items (a & b) were addressed at the beginning of the meeting, as a point of order Councilman Seese informed of proper procedure when addressing a tabled item.

Councilman Crenshaw proceed to table both Items (a & b) until the January 2009 meeting with an outlook of having additional information available, seconded by Councilman Hardman. Motion carried.

(PUBLIC HEARING)

c) **Petitioner:** Phuong Kelly Nguyen, Camken Construction, LLC, Agent for Annetta J. Brown, 4203 Whatley Avenue, Thunderbolt, GA

Request: Recurrence to Specific Site Development Plan Approval and to **Establish a Use, Location:** 000 Fish Bait Trail, **Parcel No:** 3-0292-02-008, **Development Type:** Multi Family Dwelling

(PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION APPROVED 11/19/2008)

Councilman Seese rendered motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Hardman. Motion carried.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **Petitioner:** Warsaw Bluff Condominium Association, Inc., 3005 River Drive
Request: Use of Council Chambers on Saturday, **February 14, 2009**
Event: Annual Meeting, Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

Motion rendered by Councilman Seese for approval, seconded by Councilwoman Goette. Discussion was made. Motion carried favorably.

- b) **Petitioner:** Nathan Saltzman – A Senior at Savannah College of Art and Design
Request: Approval to Film Project (*In the Line of Duty*)
Requirements: Assistance of Police and Fire Departments
Area Involved: River Drive and Falligant Avenue
Redirection of Traffic: River Drive and Ambos Street/Bannon Drive and Falligant Avenue,
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2009, **Time:** 9:00 A.M.– 2:00 P.M.

Motion tendered by Councilman Seese to approve contingent upon party's willingness to abide by and co-ordinate with the legal organs of Thunderbolt, second by Councilman Hardman. Discussion was made. Council Hardman questioned whether the Town could be furnished a copy of the film for record purposes. Per, Mr. Saltzman upon completion the Town will be forwarded a copy. **Motion carried favorably.**

- c) **Administration Department–**
2009 Renewal of Home Occupation & Personal Care Home Applications
(List Attached)

Councilman Seese tendered motion to approve at Clerk's discretion, seconded by Councilwoman Goette. *Some discussion was made concerning compliance matters.* **Motion carried. Councilman Crenshaw being among the applicants, abstained from action on this item.**

- d) **Administration Department-**
2009 Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License Applications
(List Attached)

Councilman Seese tendered motion to approve at Clerk's Discretion, seconded by Councilman Hardman. *Some discussion was made concerning compliance matters.* **Motion carried.**

- e) **Planning/Zoning Commission-**
Reappointment of Commission Members: Andrew Chiver and Richard Parker,
Terms Expire on January 12, 2009

Motion tendered by Councilman Seese to reappoint Mr. Parker and Mr. Chiver to the Planning/Zoning Commission, seconded by Councilman Hardman. Motion carried. Both Mr. Parker and Mr. Chiver *terms will expire January 12, 2013.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*Mayor Thomas read the announcement aloud with regards to **Mayors' Day 2009** being held Saturday, January 24th – Monday, January 26th, 2009, Atlanta, GA.*

Also, the Mayor's Motorcade was held on today, Mayor Thomas announced it as being a festive occasion.

f) **Executive Session-** for the Purpose of Legal and/or Personnel Matters

Councilwoman Goette rendered motion to adjourn open meeting to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of legal and/or personnel matters, seconded by Councilman Hardman. Motion carried.

Upon completion of Executive Session, Councilman Seese rendered motion to reconvene into open session, seconded by Councilman Crenshaw. Motion carried.

SIGN IN SHEET:

Mr. Trabue's name was listed on the sign in sheet; however, it was marked off. Banter was made, he voiced no concerns at this time.

****Note:** Detailed discussion on any item addressed during this session may be listened to by audio tape upon request.

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose M. McCombs
Clerk of Council