



**TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2009**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Anna Maria Thomas, followed by the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.

Present: Mayor Anna Maria Thomas, Council Members: John Cheeks, Sr., David P. Crenshaw, Beth E. Goette, and Bobby J. Hardman. Town Attorney, Charles W. Barrow, Town Administrator, Robert B. Thomson, Chief of Police, Irene Pennington, Fire Chief, Carl Smith, Public Works Director, Gary Johnston, Finance Director, Brooks Adams, Clerk of Council, Rose M. McCombs, Utilities Clerk, Katina Spaulding and Administrative Clerk, Caroline Nguyen were also present.

Council Member: T. Gebel Seese arrived shortly after meeting began.

Absent: Council Member: Kimberly Chappell-Stevens

2. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:**

July 8, 2009 minutes were approved as stated by Mayor Thomas upon motion tendered by Councilwoman Goette, seconded by Councilman Hardman. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Monthly Finance Report:** *(Document provided and made a part of these Minutes)*

Finance Director Adams discussed the monthly financial report and noted the cash balances for July 2009 totaled \$491,076.04 with a net decrease YTD of \$91,317.93. Mr. Adams reported the General Fund month to date revenue is under expenses in the amount of \$130,980. Finance Director Adams mentioned the report did not have any exceptional items to discuss and by the next Council meeting Council Members will have information to review for salary adjustments and other items due for discussion at the September 2009 meeting.

Mr. Adams highlighted the missing water percentage of 9% of the monthly water report. The percentage is in line of the Town goals due to efforts from Utilities Clerk Spaulding, Administrative Clerk, Nguyen, and Public Works Meter Reader, Tommy Ingram. Improvements will continue.

Councilwoman Goette questioned the outcome of the Taste of Thunderbolt Festival and Mr. Brooks stated there will be a comprehensive report prepared for the next Council Meeting.

Councilman Crenshaw requested Clerk of Council McCombs to explain the advertising budget for meeting announcements. Mr. Crenshaw questioned if the Town will be able to advertise two meetings to discuss the budget and the mileage rate and Mrs. McCombs answered the Town will be able to advertise. Mrs. McCombs mentioned the Town is required to have one public hearing advertisement before budget adoption and one public hearing before the adoption of mileage should it not exceed the roll back rate. Clerk of Council McCombs noted two weeks before the adoption of mileage advertisement is required

proposing current year mileage and 5 year history of tax levy. Mr. Crenshaw noted the Council would like to have a public meeting to discuss the budget on September 9, 2009 at 6:00pm and an additional meeting on October 14, 2009 at 6:00pm to discuss the mileage rate both meeting to be held before Council meeting.

4. Special Committee Report:

Mayor Thomas announced Clerk of Council McCombs is to be sworn in for the State Election Division's requirement to take the position of Election Superintendent for the qualifying portion of the Election. Clerk of Council McCombs raised her right hand and accepted by stating the oath of Clerks for 2009 Qualifying, aloud.

5. Town Administrator's Report & Council Members Reports:

- Robert (Bob) Thomson –
Town Administrator Thomson addressed the items that required Council Approval. Mr. Thomson listed the items that needed approval aloud.

Council Approval Needed

1. *Town Administrator Thomson discussed the consideration of incurring engineering costs for the Downing Street water line. Mr. Thomson noted the Town is not requesting \$30,000 and that there is uncertainty about the Economic Development Administration grant which is needed to fund the project. Mr. Thomson requested the Council to decide if the Town should incur additional engineering costs before the Town is funded by EDA, if it is granted. Councilman Crenshaw recommended the Council to make no action. No motion was passed; however Councilman Crenshaw requested an order of magnitude for Downing Street water line.*
2. *Mr. Thomson requested Council approval of \$12,000 for Fire Department bunker gear, which \$6,000 will be reimbursed by a grant. The bunker gear will include 7 complete outfits for Fire Fighters.*

Councilman Hardman made a motion to approve the request of \$12,000 to purchase bunker gear, seconded by Councilman Seese. Discussion made. The motion carried unanimously.

3. *Town Administrator Thomson requested approval the Red Flag ordinance, which is a requirement from the Federal Trade Commission to adopt stronger identity theft rules.*

Councilman Crenshaw made a motion to adopt the Red Flag ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Goette. Discussion made. The motion carried unanimously.

Items of Interest

1. *Town Administrator Thomson continued with his report and discussed the items of interest. Mr. Thomson noted the affordability of a well and water line is dependent on an Economic Development Administration supplement grant. The GEFA application is on hold due to the status of the EDA grant. There is an unaffordable funding gap that will affect the Town's application to GEFA without the EDA grant. Councilman Seese clarified the Town needs a grant for the funding gap. Mr. Thomson mentioned there is well money involved.*

2. *Mr. Thomson discussed the EPD mandate to reduce water usage is to take effect as of October 1, 2009. The Town has received no further information from EPD. Town Administrator noted a meeting was held with John Beall, Town Attorney Barrow, Public Works Director Gary Johnston, Finance Director Brooks Adams, and Administrative Clerk Nguyen to discuss further action. Mr. Thomson called Director of EPD, Carol Couch, and explained the Town's status with EPD and Ms. Couch will research in house of the Town's situation. Councilman Cheeks commented on the lock date and the Town's alternative, which is purchasing water from the City of Savannah. Councilman Crenshaw questioned the legal action and Town Attorney Barrow mentioned the Town may take legal action in the form of appeals or complete a modification application to change current withdrawal limit. Mr. Barrow mentioned both actions will require a great deal from Administration and EPD working together before the case is brought to court. Mr. Crenshaw mentioned the Town has a target date to gather all information and data to take action to be at the end of the month. Mr. Barrow explained the process of the case going to court.*
3. *The Town of Thunderbolt has been in contact with City of Savannah to negotiate a contract with the City for water and sewer services. Town Administrator Thomson mentioned the Town has current service for water and sewer and does not have a current contract.*
4. *Mr. Thomson mentioned the Town of Thunderbolt has been working with Thunderbolt Marine to insure they have adequate water supply for the sprinkler system. Mr. Thomson noted the engineer update within his report.*

Town Administrator noted the remaining items listed are for informational purposes.

- **Mayor Thomas**
No report
- **John Cheeks- Planning/Zoning Issues**
Councilmember Cheeks reported the Land Use Committee has been working efficiently and diligently on the Land Use Plan. He called on the Chairman of the Land Use Committee, Ed Truitt, to address the Council. Mr. Truitt took the stand to address the Council on the progress of the Committee. Mr. Truitt announced the Land Use Committee will not meet on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 and will continue to meet the following Tuesday, August 25, 2009. Mr. Truitt noted the Committee is reviewing the Town's infrastructure. The Committee assessed water and fire limitations, green space issues, and reviewed the comprehensive plan. Mr. Truitt mentioned the benefits of the Committee conducting a demand and capacity analysis using the Town's tax digest.
- **Bobby Hardman- Police/Fire Matters**
Councilman Hardman noted the impact of an additional Police Officer to the Police Department documents provided. Mr. Hardman requested Fire Chief Smith to address the Council with any reports. Chief Smith noted the Fire Department has not officially received notification however the department has decreased the ISO rating from 5 to 4. This will enable residents to save monies on their homeowners insurance.

Councilman Crenshaw questioned the process of having an insurance premium decreased and Chief Smith responded the insurance companies will be notified and recommends residents follow up at their own discretion. Mr. Smith recommended it be placed in the following month's newsletter.

Chief Smith noted the Fire Fighters attended the State Fire Fighters Competition and did well.

Councilman Hardman mentioned the ISO rating for the Isle of Armstrong residents, which currently they are paying a class 5 and Chief Smith noted efforts are being made to provide hydrants to Isle of Armstrong for Fire Safety.

Councilman Hardman requested the Chief of Police to address the Council on Police report. Chief Pennington reported on August 11, 2009, Corporal McBride confiscated items and arrested responsible parties for selling illegal narcotics in the parking lot at Teeple's. Mrs. Pennington acknowledged and commended participants of the Neighborhood Watch Association.

- Beth Goette- Senior Citizens/OMI Issues
No Report
- Kimberly Chappell-Stevens- Museum & Finance Matters
Absent
- David Crenshaw - Finance Matters
Councilman Crenshaw requested Clerk of Council McCombs to comment on the Tax report. Mrs. McCombs addressed Council and noted as of August 11, 2009, outstanding tax for prior years has decreased to \$94,727. Mrs. McCombs mentioned this decrease is positive and the Town should be notified soon on the collections receipted by Penn Credit.
- T. Gebel Seese- Court
No Report

6. LEGAL REPORT:

- a) Adoption of Proposed "Red Flag Ordinance"
Re: Prevention of Identity Theft

(SAMPLE DOCUMENT STATIONED IN LOBBY SINCE JULY 1, 2009)

Item discussed previously within Town Administrator Report.

Town Attorney Barrow made additional comments at this time on the Tax report provided by Clerk of Council McCombs. Mr. Barrow received a written letter from a representative of Boater's Paradise, with regards to pay delinquent tax in the amount \$1000 every month starting in August 2009.