



**TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2010**

I.

The scheduled meeting convened shortly after 6:00PM with Mayor Anna Maria Thomas as officiator. Invocation was offered followed with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited in unison.

Present: Mayor Anna Maria Thomas, Council Members: John Cheeks, Sr., Kimberly Chappell-Stevens, Sherry L. Phillips, Beth E. Goette, David P. Crenshaw and Mayor Pro-Tem, John M. Henry. In Attendance as well were Town Attorney, Charles W. Barrow, Chief of Police, Irene Pennington, Administrative Clerk, Caroline Nguyen, Public Works Director/CH2MHill Representative, Gary Johnston, Clerk of Council, Rose M. McCombs, Building Inspector, Bob Fischer, and Utilities Clerk, Katina Spaulding.

II.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

May 01, 2010 – Council Workshop Notes
May 12, 2010 – Regular Monthly Meeting

Motion made to approve the reflected minutes was tendered by Alderman, Crenshaw, seconded by Alderwoman, Beth Goette. The motion carried unanimously.

III.

Finance Department:

Alderman Crenshaw discussed the Town's bank balances as of May 28, 2010 provided by Administrative Clerk, Caroline Nguyen. Mr. Crenshaw announced the Town has begun to receive collections from the first mailing of Municipal Taxes at about \$57,000. Council created an agreement with John McKenna to act as interim Finance Director.

Alderman Crenshaw further tendered a motion to contract Mr. McKenna to consult in Finance at \$22 per hour until the position is filled, seconded by Alderman, John Henry. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Crenshaw noted Mr. McKenna's priority is to rectify the findings from the 2009 Audit and Journal Entries needed to close out 2009 Budget. Alderman Crenshaw continued with discussing the Thunderbolt Roll Back Rate report (Form PT32.1) received from Chatham County.

Alderman Crenshaw noted about a five million decrease in tax digest for this year and the 2010 projected millage rate is 6.119. The projected rollback millage rate of 6.377 is dollar neutral and is estimated to be set around August 2010. The future options the Town has are to adopt the rollback rate or to increase or decrease taxes. Alderman Crenshaw advised Council to keep in mind there is no SPLOST Funding.

Alderman Crenshaw explained the County will use the funds for Class 1 projects first and to be hopeful the Town gets funds by the end of the year.

IV.

Special Committee Report:

Special guest, Joe Welsh, addressed Council to announce his running for Senate Seat and discussed his hopes to represent this district.

V.

Town Administrator's Report & Council Members Reports:

Mayor, Anna Maria Thomas, announced that the Town Administrator position is open and continued the meeting by discussing the success of Taste of Thunderbolt.

Mayor Thomas- thanked all employees involved and provided copies of revenues and expenses of the festival to Council. Mayor Thomas voiced she is big on promoting Thunderbolt, Georgia. Mayor Thomas voiced pay for Police Officers should not come out of festival funds and sought for Council's opinion.

Alderman Crenshaw, Sherry Phillips, questioned the staff's perception on the matter. Discussion went into length. Call of order was established.

Alderman Crenshaw tendered motion to pay the Police and Staff out of General Fund and all remaining funds less expense to Museum, seconded Alderman Chappell-Stevens. Discussion made. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Chappell-Stevens further questioned what was discussed. Clerk of Council, Rose McCombs, communicated that she was there in support and knew she was not getting paid due to being salary.

At this time Mayor Thomas presented certificates to Restaurant owners of: Coach's Corner, Kao Thai, Tubby's and Tortuga's for their dedication and participation with the Taste of Thunderbolt. The Mayor also recognized and provided awards for Chief of Police, Irene Pennington, Clerk of Council, Rose McCombs, Utilities Clerk, Katina Spaulding, Court Clerk, Paulette Collins, Administrative Clerk, Caroline Nguyen, Public Works Director, Gary Johnston, Tommy Ingram and Sandra Newman of OMI, and the entire Police Department. Chu's, CH2M Hill OMI, and John Hutson were recognized for being donators for the festival.

Mayor Thomas voiced special thanks for those who helped the Police Department raise enough funds to purchase tasers. The generous donators are as follows: Thunderbolt Neighborhood Watch Association, Sandy Branam, Police and Sheriff's Press, Shawn Elmore, Carole & Robert Dabney, Elizabeth & Ernest Hutson, and Thomas Cole.

John Cheeks, Public Works-

- 1) Approval to Designate Maccio Drive a Two-way Street

Alderman, John Cheeks, motioned to make Maccio Drive a two-way street, seconded by Alderman Henry. Discussion made. The motion did not pass with a 4 to 3 vote. Alderman Phillips and Aldermen Henry and Cheeks were in favor.

Mayor Thomas voiced a 2005 Fatality Study was performed and initiated the change of Macceo Drive to a one-way street and 54 residents have appreciated the change since. A Resident voiced his concerns of safety and agrees with the street being one-way.

Alderman Cheeks voiced the one-way is a hindrance to Resident, Billy Greene, and puts him at great risk entering his house. Mr. Cheeks suggested adding speed bumps to control traffic. Another Resident addressed Council to voice his concerns on potential accidents and that an exception should not be made for one person.

Previous Alderman, Gebel Seese, communicated his understanding for Mr. Greene's hindrance, however for everyone else it is very dangerous due to speeding. Mr. Seese suggested a deceleration lane at Lakewood. Mr. Seese emphasized the one-way has improved the safety dramatically. The President of the Isle of Armstrong Association, John Sheley, spoke against the two-way street. Previous Alderman, Bobby Hardman, came forth to present a petition that has 35 residents who presently wish it to remain as a one-way.

Discussion went into length.

Alderwoman, Sherry Phillips, voiced the road as being hazardous and suggested a Department of Transportation (DOT) study to be conducted. Mayor Thomas noted DOT's previous assessment and assistance and it was affirmed there was not enough room for a deceleration lane. Building Inspector, Bob Fischer, suggested making the streets a dead end.

2) a) Seek Approval that Increase in Fees Will Not Take Effect Without an Approval Vote in Public Meetings

Motion tendered by Alderman Cheeks to approve that increase in fees will not take effect without an approval vote in Public Meetings, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips. Discussion made in length. The motion passed. Mayor Thomas opposed and Alderman Crenshaw abstained.

Alderman Crenshaw explained the intent of the ordinance to address issues of enterprise fund short falls and continuous subsidizing from General Fund. Alderwoman Phillips communicated a vote should be taken if fees are increased. Alderwoman Chappell-Stevens noted Council needs to take into consideration the Public's appreciation of an open dialogue about increases or decreases in any fees and is in favor of the vote. Previous Alderman Seese noted several audit synopsis with shortfalls in water and sewer with over \$100,000 per year.

Several people spoke on issue and discussion went into detail.

Alderman Crenshaw noted the missing water percentage is about 17% for current month. Town Attorney, Charles Barrow, brought attention to 3% variance in ordinance. Alderman Chappell-Stevens confirmed there will need to be a change to ordinance.

b) Seek to Change the Ordinance to Read that the Higher Billings Will Not go back to the First Gallon- the Customer Will Only be Billed at the Higher Tier for the Gallons Used over the Lower Tier

Alderman Cheeks tendered motion to have residential customers not billed back to the first gallon and to be billed 0-4,000 at \$.95 and 4001- above at \$1.20, seconded by Alderman Henry. Discussion made. Motion tabled at end of discussion.

Alderman Crenshaw voiced commercial customers may not agree with being charged a different rate than residential and began to discuss YTD Consumption report provided. Alderman Cheeks highlighted the different reading period effects on billing. Alderman Crenshaw discussed the cost effects and difference of tiers and the added cost from water purchased from the City of Savannah being \$39,783.72. Alderman Crenshaw discussed the 2010 Water Budget provided and discussion continued. Alderwoman, Beth Goette, reminded Council a tiered rate was recommended by EPD.

The meeting was called for question and Alderwoman Phillips requested to see Alderman Cheeks' proposal with impact data. Alderman Crenshaw mentioned he will provide his spreadsheet to Council Members for analysis.

Alderman Henry motioned to table item until next month, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

An Audience member voiced an issue with a fire hydrant near Thunderbolt Marine, Inc. that continues to have running water. Alderman Crenshaw advised Public Works Director Johnston to research the issue.

Sherry Phillips, Administration- 2010-2014 Goals and Objectives for Thunderbolt Town Council & Administration is noted as strategic, tactical, and operation and is available for Public. Council has received 44 applications for two open positions and Alderman Crenshaw, Alderwomen Goette and Phillips will review and the entire Council will conduct interviews.

The Council as a whole continues to make progress on the Policy and Procedure Manual and the 2009 Audit Process is still underway.

Beth Goette, Thunderbolt Museum & Senior Citizens- No Report

Kimberly Chappell-Stevens, Police Dept & Municipal Court- announced \$7,955.00 was raised for tasers for the Police Department and the tasers will arrive in June. Proper training will be a priority and Alderwoman Chappell-Stevens will be an observer.

Public safety issues and peddler complaints were addressed. Chief of Police Pennington communicated on the Better Business Bureau having complaints on particular company who had a City of Savannah and Chatham County permit.

Alderwoman Chappell-Stevens tendered a motion to create a peddler's license procedure, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips. Discussion made. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Barrow will conduct extensive research and have something written. Chief of Police Pennington announced with additional funds raised two video and audio cameras that attach to tasers were purchased. The Chief of Police Pennington hopes to purchase four more for the remaining tasers. Alderman Henry questioned the other vehicles to be sold and Chief of Police Pennington confirmed they will be put up for auction on GovDeals.

David Crenshaw, Finance- Previously addressed

1) Approval to enter into Consultant Contract with John McKenna at rate of \$22.00 per hour to oversee the Town's financial matters until position is filled with a full time employee.

At this time Alderman Crenshaw discussed the Monthly Water Report provided that included a 17% of water pumped vs. invoiced. The issue with the Savannah State Fire Service is on hold. The 2009 Audit will be going under peer review and a finalized copy should be ready as soon as review is complete.

Alderman Crenshaw in the form of a motion sought approval to provide a draft copy of the 2009 Audit to the Public in lobby, Alderwoman Chappell-Stevens seconded. Discussion made. The motion passed. Mayor Thomas and Alderman Crenshaw opposed.

The format of the draft provided and time limits for review and comments were discussed. Alderwoman Chappell-Stevens explained moving forward with more input from people is good and it is to be understood this is not the final copy.

John Henry, Planning/Zoning & Fire Department- recognized Fire Department Representative, Andrew Bateman. Alderman Henry continued with Fire Department report and voiced MedStar agreement is going well. Vehicle maintenance will not be approved due to budget and the Savannah State letter has been sent to proper officials. City of Savannah has agreed to take on full campus of Savannah State the date was not confirmed.

Fire Fighter, Andrew Bateman, addressed Council to discuss Fire Department report further. Fire Fighter Bateman announced the Fire Department has discontinued first responders and are still running fire calls. Mr. Bateman explained the requirements for having service trucks repaired and highlighted department event participation.

Mayor Thomas discussed needing Alderman Henry's signature on the previously approved Mutual Aid Agreement with local fire departments. Alderman Henry will not provide his signature due to City of Savannah's Fire Department not being listed. Town Attorney Barrow mentioned the absence of City of Savannah is unsure. Follow up with the City of Savannah will be acquired.

VI.
LEGAL REPORT:

Town Attorney, Barrow addressed Chatham County forwarding paperwork releasing Thunderbolt from Life Safety Inspection. State Legislation addresses Town's right to hire or contract a person for this capacity.

VII.
OLD BUSINESS:
PUBLIC HEARING

a) Proposed Land Use Preliminary Study(Draft IV) –

Alderman Henry announced the advertisement has been provided for more than two weeks ago.

Alderman Henry tendered a motion to adopt Draft #4, seconded by Alderman Cheeks. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII.
NEW BUSINESS:

a) Petitioner: Christopher Burns, 3005 River Drive, Unit-514

Request: Approval to Home Occupation Application

Business Name: Chris Burns, **Business Type:** Window Installation

Use of Business Location: Office/Computer Base Only, Work Performed Offsite

Alderman Crenshaw further tendered motion due to no complaints filed to approve Home Occupation Application, seconded by Alderwoman Goette. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Cheeks questioned the use of work trucks and Petitioner noted there will be none.

- b) **Petitioner:** Charles Teeple, Jr, 3115 Furber Avenue (**PENDING**)
Request: Approval to Alcoholic Beverage License
Business Name/Location: Charlie Teeple, 3209 East Victory Drive

Alderman Cheeks tendered motion to approve Alcoholic Beverage License, seconded by Alderwoman Chappell-Stevens. Discussion made.

Alderman Crenshaw questioned the consumption on site and the type of alcohol. Town Attorney Barrow questioned the Petitioner, Charles Teeple, Jr., on the type of license requesting whether to sell on the premise or the retail of beer and wine and the Petitioner Teeple would like to conduct both. The application submitted was for the retail sell only. Town ordinance, building codes, and State Law compliance were discussed in detail.

Alderman Cheeks tendered a motion to amend previous motion of approving Alcoholic Beverage License to include building codes and local code compliance to sell and not consume on premises, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Barrow advised Petitioner Teeple to return and apply for a special event permit for special events.

- c) **Administration-** were voiced aloud by Mayor Thomas
May 2010 Outstanding Tax Collection – (Provided As Information Only)
Years 2005-2009 an Estimated - \$ **17,100.00** Collected
Years 2005-2009 reflects overall 3% in Outstanding Taxes
Year 2010 - Period 04/27/2010 – 05/31/2010, \$ **58,285.00** Collected

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Scheduled Meeting for FY 2011 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant Program (formerly LARP)- Wednesday, June 9, 2010 @ Local GDOT office, 630 West Boundary St
2. Georgia Municipal Association 2010 Annual Convention- June 25-29, 2010 @ Savannah International Trade Center

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

At this time a motion was tendered by Alderwoman, Goette, to adjourn open meeting to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and/or Legal concerns, seconded by Alderwoman, Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Open session reconvened upon a motion tendered by Alderwoman Goette, seconded by Alderwoman, Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Henry tendered motion to eliminate the paid Fire Department Chief's job, seconded by Alderwoman Chappell-Stevens. Discussion made. The motion passed 4-3 with Alderman Crenshaw, Alderwoman Goette, and Mayor Thomas opposed.

Mayor Thomas questioned the repercussions of this motion and Attorney Barrow answered there may be some back paid issues and research is needed. Alderman Cheeks communicated there may be possible disputes of back pay. Alderwoman Phillips asked the effective date and Town Attorney Barrow mentioned as of now. Alderwoman Phillips mentioned the pay will be removed and questioned if the Fire Chief position can be volunteer. Alderman Henry mentioned currently there is an Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief, Steve Joyner, whom may act as interim Volunteer Fire Chief. Alderman Henry will contact Mr. Joyner.

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned upon motion tendered by Alderwoman Goette, seconded by Alderwoman Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline R. Nguyen
Administrative Clerk

Reviewed by: Rose M. McCombs
Clerk of Council