



**TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011  
6:00 PM**

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

**Present:** Mayor Anna Maria Thomas, Council Members: John Henry, Kimberly Chappell-Stevens, David Crenshaw, Sherry Phillips, John Cheeks and Beth Goette. Also in attendance are Town Attorney, Charles Barrow, and Staff Representation: Town Administrator, Linton Smith, Public Works Manager, Shawn Elmore, Police Captain, James Pierce, Finance Clerk, Molly Sims and Clerk of Council, Rose McCombs.

**II.**

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:**

September 06, 2011 – Special Meeting

September 14, 2011 – Regular Monthly Meeting

**Motion tendered to approve reflected minutes rendered by Councilman Crenshaw, seconded by Councilman Cheeks. The motion carried with all being in agreement.**

*Amendment to the Agenda was interjected to accept the following changes:*

*Removal of Item (6) on the Town Administrator's Report- presentation by Eric Fournier*

*Additional items for purchase to Item (7) shown on Town Administrator's Report*

*--another \$16,000 for SCBAs (Fire Department) SPLOST expense*

**? Under Mayor's Report- add Resolution to Breast Cancer Awareness**

**Approval to include amended agenda items were so moved by Councilman Henry, seconded by Councilman Crenshaw. All were in favor.**

To allow additional time for Clerk and Finance Department preparation, the Town Administrator's Report was heard. Town Administrator Smith began with brief updates as outlined on (*Town Administrator's Report Provided and made a Part of These Minutes*).

- 1) Completion of the Sol C. Johnson sidewalk. The school board has not accepted the sidewalk yet due to a sod issue and a slope. As soon as the Board approves this work will sign off also and expedite our part of the payment.
- 2) The sidewalk linking Tara to the Bluff should start by this Friday. Fred Buck of Thunderbolt was the low bidder and his finished product all checks clear.

- 3) Well Update – Town Administrator Smith added start up began again about 5:30 this afternoon with the last of first part of grouting and on tomorrow morning they will extend it all the way down to casing. Worst case scenario is three weeks to complete final testing.
- 4) Public Works Report (Bac-t, Activity, Waste, and Water) (*Report Provided Electronically*) – Shawn Elmore. Update on Robertson and Mechanics line project.

Public Works Manager Elmore informed of propellers received for the new motors at Robertson Avenue are not working properly; they are not producing enough lift. He indicated waiting for replacement which is being shipped from England and should be received in the next day or two.

With regard to Mechanics Avenue the air pressure test has been done and they are now performing chlorination of the line. Test results should be received within a few days, once received completion is estimated in a week time frame.

- 5) Hancock Askew has begun and their first draft on narratives is due to us by the end of this week. Additional comments referenced draft to be centralized around the Administrative Clerk's position vacated by Caroline Nguyen.
- 6) Presentation by Eric Fournier- (*Agenda Amended to Delete Item*)
- 7) Explanation and pictures for Fire Department purchase of 2 used Engines. Ask Council to approve \$10,000.00 2005 Fire SPLOST.

Town Administrator Smith sought Council's consideration on \$10,000 purchase for Fire Department vehicle on replacement to Engine 54 Pumper Truck which is out of commission and another \$16,000 for SCBA units, 20 Bottles and 10 Face Pieces.

**Motion tendered for approval rendered by Councilman Henry, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.**

### III.

#### **Finance Department:** (*Finance Report Included and made a Part of These Minutes*)

Agenda projection was inaccessible on tonight; however, with paper documents in hand, Finance Clerk Sims being ready at this point, Mayor Thomas proceeds with the Finance Report. Finance Clerk Sims began with General Fund Entity by announcement to receipts as \$119,788 versus expenditures of \$166,864. Noted was General Fund's September 30<sup>th</sup> Fund Balance of \$241,000. Finance Clerks Sims commented on the annual Insurance Commission check to be direct deposited to the General Fund account on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and also Municipal Tax bills being mailed out on September 30<sup>th</sup>. She ended General Fund report with reception to increase revenue forthcoming.

Water/Sewer receipts for September voiced in the amount of \$112,756 with expenditures being \$119,953. Finance Clerk Sims indicated there was not a treatment fee for October; the next treatment bill will be received in November. Forecast for October reflects an increase in revenue.

Continuing with Municipal Court, Finance Clerk Sims communicated \$19,294 in receipts versus \$21,135 going out for September; month's ending Fund Balance being \$18,210. She commented upon some decrease shown for the month.

SPLOST revenue received amounted to \$49,183. Additional revenue also reflects \$3,000 as refund due to a returned compound meter which did work.

Finance Clerk Sims commented on the 2012 Budget Work Shop held on Monday night where all had worked very hard on; revisions have gone out on today by e-mail. Her hopes are for all to review those and forward any comments.

Last item addressed was brought to attention by Councilwoman Phillips concerning a new look to finance report for next month. Finance Clerk Sims elaborated on Councilwoman Phillips's new look of higher level Cash Flow Report projected for next month as part of budget versus actual spreadsheet provided each month. She further voiced of providing that possibly in addition to current style reporting so that all will be able to make the transition in reading it, and link the two in how it flows.

Councilman Crenshaw questioned the 2012 Budget status. Finance Clerk Sims informed expenses still exceeded revenue at about \$200,000. Councilman Crenshaw further informed of meeting held before lunch today on the budget where they removed additional items; however, expenses were still \$123,000 more. Discussion continued. Council was advised to contact Finance Clerk Sims within the next week or so should they have any questions concerning the budget. Finance Clerk Sims voiced of forwarding 2012 Budget as revised from changes as result of the workshop and other adjustments made on today. She also informed of highlighted notes to the spreadsheet as manner in tracking changes as well to contact her with questions. The 2012 Budget topic came to an end with question to adoption procedure posed to Clerk of Council, Rose McCombs. With adequate timing to advertisements compliance the 2012 Proposed Budget is anticipated to be adopted at the November 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

#### **IV.**

**Special Committee Report:** None

#### **V.**

**Town Administrator's Report & Council Members Reports:**

Town Administrator's Report- previously addressed.

**Mayor Anna Maria Thomas-** offered aloud Resolution to wear Pink Shirts, October 25-27, 2011 to support Breast Cancer Awareness. Angel Bateman was called forward to elaborate further on the planned event. In recognition to Breast Cancer Awareness Firefighters, Police and Council will wear Pink T-Shirts. Mrs. Bateman had in hand sample t-shirt of Savannah-Metro. She voiced change to be made to reflect Thunderbolt's emblem.

**Motion to approve rendered by Councilwoman Chappell-Stevens, seconded by Councilwoman Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.** Further discussion made by Mrs. Bateman communicated cost for t-shirt at \$20 with revenue overage to be presented to Pink Hills. Mrs. Bateman will forward prepared document upon completion to Clerk of Council. All parties who wish to purchase a t-shirt are informed to contact Mrs. Bateman.

**John Cheeks, Public Works-** ushered Public Works Manager, Shawn Elmore forward to report on Department matters.

- He informed work on Mechanics Avenue will be completed the coming week;
- Verizon has just finished with welding on the Water Tower; the second crew will be coming in to reposition antennas;
- Tank inspection was performed two weeks ago; results are forthcoming. Public Works Manager Elmore informed of some corrosion damage on inside of tank which will require attention. He further informed to forward inspection results and pictures to Council upon receipt;
- Announced of continued work on flooding and drainage issues; and
- With regard to Downing Avenue sewage pump, City of Savannah has come out to illustrate reading procedure. An accurate pumping consumption will be gained for next month;

- Once meters are addressed, water matters should be solved.

Sherry Phillips, Administration- No Report

Beth Goette, Thunderbolt Museum & Senior Center- No Report

**Kimberly Chappell-Stevens, Police Department & Municipal Court-** conveyed of good news on Chief Pennington's return on tomorrow. Captain Pierce briefly addressed the outcome of her health procedure. He continued with Police Department update where attention is given to increase length on Police report to Miscellaneous Calls. The Department has gone to completely computerized daily activity report. Upon Officers becoming more accustomed with operations, a more accurate report will be gained on what Officers are doing during the day. Captain Pierce voiced Miscellaneous Calls as historically being incidents that does not generate a case number such as stops for removal of tree limbs from the street, and area/business search; these are things the Department wants to capture as it will present a truer picture to the community on policing activity.

Councilwoman Chappell-Stevens continued by bringing awareness to Thunderbolt's first homicide in years. Metro acknowledged in providing thorough job in assisting. Captain Pierce expressed Thunderbolt Officers did an excellent job as they fell back on their training. Case execution was performed in a professional manner.

Councilwoman Chappell-Stevens ended her report with shared highlights to training offered September 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> by GMA and the Robert E. Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute, the latter training was held in Ringgold, Georgia. Beforehand, she talked on Ringgold being the area which was hit by a tornado and expressed how humbling to see where it went through the area practically ripping it in half, and further expressed how blessed Thunderbolt is to escape such devastating weather in which surrounding neighbors have experienced. Training highlights are as follows;

- Voiced Thunderbolt as being in compliance where Open Meetings are concerned;
- Sunshine Law not only applies to Council but any governing body which is appointed by Council;
- Voting to be done in public;
- Mayor to sign affidavit for Executive Session, and for Council to discuss only matters stated in open session. It was suggested in training to have all Council Members sign affidavit for Executive Session. This to prevent Mayor from carrying the weight of matter should violation occur and lawsuit arises; This at Mayor's discretion;
- To be careful when forwarding e-mail as they may be subpoenaed;
- Leadership training- Day 1) Study manual- group participation/assimilated survival skills where purpose on decisions made as Elected Officials affect entire community, Day 2) Discussion on prior day's event, Day 3) Personality test- learn self and others personality; learn how one's personality affect interworking with others, and to not take talk so personal.

**David Crenshaw, Finance-** No Report

**John Henry, Planning/Zoning & Fire Department-** No zoning matters reported. Lt. Bateman was offered the floor on behalf of Fire Department matters. As noted on Fire Report, he shared awareness to two firefighters having complete 1<sup>st</sup> Responders course. Two firefighters completed the Pressurized Container course. Final remarks addressed two fire occurrences in the month of September happening within a week period, and one the beginning of October. In all cases, he reported of great jobs performed and quick response time. No injuries reported for any of the fires.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **Petitioner:** John A. Henderson, **Coach's Corner**, 3016 E. Victory Drive  
**Request:** Approval to Outdoor Activity Event (Mothers Finest/Lex & Terry Concerts)  
**Dates:** Thursday thru Saturday, 11/03-11/05/2011 **with Request of Extended Time Variance** on Thursday, 11/03/2011, 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM, **Alcoholic Beverages** will be available at Event

Petitioner, John Hendrix briefly outlined the event as a Rock-n-Roll Maritime Weekend where Coach's and others have come together with planned event beginning on Thursday. Mr. Hendrix announced as being lenient and at the mercy of Council with the 11:00 variance. Further discussion was rendered stating of previous talk with Captain Pierce, and also having security, parking and traffic plans in place.

**Motion is rendered by Councilman Crenshaw for approval with contingency should complaints be made between the hour 10:00 PM – 11:00 PM the event be shut down, seconded by Councilman Cheeks. The motion carried.**

- b) **Administration** – Municipal Tax Collection for September 2011- was voiced aloud by Mayor Thomas.

**Years 2005 – 2010**  
**Collection:** \$500.00

**2011 Final Bill Out (9/30/2011) \$589,674.77**  
**Collection-to-Date:** \$239,163.20

At this juncture, Mayor Thomas read aloud the **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

1. a) Georgia Municipal Association Host (2011 Mayor's Christmas Motorcade) on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 @ Georgia Regional Hospital

With regard to the Mayor's Day Christmas Motorcade, Mayor Thomas communicated this as being an annual event where Council set aside \$200 to purchase supplies, the event is coming up.

- b) District **12 Fall Meeting, Date:** December 7, 2011, **Location:** Savannah Civic Center, 301 West Oglethorpe, **Time:** 12:30 PM

**SIGN IN SHEET:**

1. Resident Yvonne Feltovic brought before Council knowledge to the flags along the bluff has become tattered. Additional discussion rendered concerning original flags. Mayor Thomas indicated awareness and addressed new purchase. Thunderbolt has donated \$200 toward purchase of new flags. Also voiced, anyone may donate \$20 at anytime towards purchase of flags through the Thunderbolt Neighborhood Community Improvement Association or here at Town Hall, the monies will be forwarded to the organization. Mayor Thomas further added undertaking of project by Councilwoman Chappell-Stevens and herself in seeking a grant for the same.

Mrs. Feltovic also voiced complaint to unawareness to previous water cut-off though it was an emergency. She commented everyone does not have a computer or e-mail. Town Administrator Smith addressed the matter. Councilwoman Goette suggested contacting the radio station in cases such as this. She also voiced to receiving a call to the same at midnight. Lastly, she

commented of previous Public Work Supervisor, Greg Martin's name being referred to on recording.

2. Resident Linda Morgan brought before Council continued talk on the Town becoming a "Tree City USA". Proposal with requirements was submitted to Council (Document Included and made A Part of These Minutes). Further discussion was rendered. Volunteer committee members were sought. Town Administrator, Linton Smith offered to be a part of the committee. Discussion continued on subject of planting of trees past and future. Town Administrator Smith will contact Mrs. Morgan to schedule a meeting. No official action was taken on the proposal on tonight; however, Mayor Thomas informed Mrs. Morgan to forward information for next month's Agenda.

c) **Executive Session-** for the Purpose of Legal and/or Personnel Matters  
**No Executive Session is held on tonight.**

Information was sought on the Christmas Boat Parade. The event date was given as the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in December (December 3, 2011) and it being hosted by The Yacht Club. Route details were provided.

Before adjourning, Mayor Thomas announced the departure of Administrative Clerk, Caroline Nguyen as a Town employee.

With all business having been addressed, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose M. McCombs  
Clerk of Council