



**TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023  
6:00 PM**

**AGENDA HEARING**

**Public has five minutes per person to ask questions or comment on any agenda item.  
Mayor Williams opened the public hearing up at 6 pm.**

Jan Yarbrough, 24 Bonaventure Rd, wanted clarification as to what changes are being made to the STR Ordinance. Mayor Williams stated it was to clean up language within the Ordinance, but the cap will remain at 70.

Michelle O'Neil, 2611 River Drive, voiced her displeasure with the Town's website being down for several years. She believes it is difficult for the citizens to know what is going on in the community without the Town's website. She feels like there is a lack of transparency. The website is not accurate and she wants to know what is being done about it. She feels the Town should be better about communicating with the constituents.

Mayor Williams stated the beta-testing link has been sent out for the new website. He agrees that the website is antiquated and that is why the Town has contracted to expedite the process.

Town Administrator Milie agreed that the website is old and dated and modules not employed. The new website is being proofed and we expect to have it operational this year. The water bill is just another tool to send info to residents. The Town plans to post Police and Fire statistics to social media. The Town is looking into the best method to record and post the meetings, possibly using YouTube.

Michelle O'Neil, 2611 River Drive, stated she just wants clarity. She feels all she hears is rumors.

Council Member Crenshaw announced that the Town will publish a draft of meeting minutes, but they will be approved at the next meeting.

Town Administrator Milie explained the changes being made to the STR Ordinance. The Ordinance has been codified in Municode. Between the first reading and the approval of the STR Ordinance, one line was omitted that should not have been. This change is to correct that omission. Upon correction, when an STR is sold, the new owner must register with the Town and be placed on the waiting list. This registration is considered a new registration. The other change being made is going by mailing address instead of parcel address. This means each unit must register and receive a separate certificate. There is only one real instance (Village on the Bluff) that has more than 4 units on one parcel, which is why this was brought to our attention.

Lindy Moody, attorney for Clayer & Co, appeared to speak about the event application being voted on at the meeting. This is a local business, located behind the Bonaventure Tours building. They just opened an art studio that includes pottery and art shows. They want to showcase their first art and craft exhibition. They would like to open it to 10-15 businesses to sell art at the event. They also plan on showing a silent movie and an acoustic band that ends at 9pm. The other portion will be a new art show in the gallery next door (Ology). They will have parking and bathrooms. No

through traffic during the event. The event will last from 4pm-9pm. Support your small business and come to the October 28<sup>th</sup> event.

Town Administrator Milie discussed the Police and Fire radios bids being discussed at the meeting. Although Motorola is the most expensive, it is the most efficient and compatible with the software. Other brands would need to constantly be updated and they will still not be compatible with other departments. Staff recommends Motorola for both Police and Fire radios. Our current radios are 7 years past their lifespan. Motorola is the only radio of the 3 bids that can be serviced locally.

Council Member Lavin asked if this will be funded by SPLOST. Town Administrator Milie explained the funding will partially come from Blue Line Solutions and SPLOST. Council Member Crenshaw asked what Blue Line Solutions was. Town Administrator Milie explained it is the speed cameras that give you citations in the area like the speed radar near Johnson High School.

Mayor Williams closed the public hear meeting at 6:30 pm.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

1. **Call to order** - Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
2. **Roll Call by Presiding Officer with Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**

In Attendance is Mayor Dana Wiliams and Council Members: Bethany Skipper-Greer, David Crenshaw, Larry Ward, James Lavin and Brooks Barbaree. Staff in attendance: Town Administrator, Bob Milie; Town Attorney, Charlie Barrow, Polie Chief, Sean Clayton; Special Projects Coordinator, Elizabeth Rhodes; Public Works Director, Oscar Crosby; Utilities Clerk, Renee Holmes, Accounts Payable/Utilities Manager, Katina Spaulding; Fire Chief, Andrew Bateman and Interim Clerk of Council, Matthew Walker.

3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda, adding item (f) for event permit for Clayer & Co. **Council Member Ward made the motion to approve with a second by Council Member Crenshaw. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of September 13, 2023 and October 4, 2023

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for September 13, 2023 and October 4, 2023. **Council Member Skipper-Greer made the motion to approve with meeting minutes for September 13, 2023. Council Member Ward provided the second. Council Member Ward made the motion to approve the meeting minutes for October 4, 2023. Council Member Crenshaw provided the second. The motions passed unanimously.**

5. **Presentation:**

- a) Proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October 11, 2023

Mayor Williams read the proclamation.

- b) Robert Ruffo – Morgan Stanley – Public Sector Long-Term Investments

Mr. Ruffo came to discuss investment alternatives. He stated he has never managed an account for a municipality, so he is unaware of all the restrictions. He asked if there was a possibility of transferring

some funds into more long-term investments. The advantage would be the rate of return is locked. Hedge against inflation risk as well as interest risk. Interest and value bonds have a seesaw relationship. Liquidity needs are a priority in any entity. What is the actual feasibility?

Town Administrator Milie stated the Town switched from money earning 0.75% interest to over 5% interest. This contributed to over \$100,000 in bleed money. He noted the Town lowered the millage rate due to interest growth. State law limits uses/specific investments. We currently use the GA Fund, which are all short-term investments. The Town doesn't have much flexibility.

Mr. Ruffo offered assistance/advice moving forward. He would need written goals and objectives.

Council Member Ward stated we need guidance with what the town wants/needs. He proposed a workshop for a deeper dive into the finances.

## 6. Finance Report:

Shannon Brett, Holland, Bromley, Barnhill & Brett, stated the budget information provided is through September. Everything is on track for the 2023 budget. Over all the town has 79% in revenue. Town expenses are in line at 75-78%. The average maturity of holdings in the GA Fund is 25 days. What is on the horizon is preparing 2024 budget. Ms. Brett stated for next meeting she hopes to have a fine-tuned 5-year trend analysis. Asked for the Town to let HBBB know the difference between short-term and long-term investments in the GA Fund.

## 7. Consent Agenda:

## 8. Discussion Agenda:

- a) Consideration to Approve Simply Savannah Marketing Contract 2024 - **A motion was made by Council Member Ward to Approve Simply Savannah Marketing Contract 2024. Council Member Crenshaw provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.**
- b) Consideration to Approve Police Communications Radio Procurement through Motorola Solutions – **A motion was made by Council Member Crenshaw to Approve Police Communications Radio Procurement through Motorola. Council Member Ward provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.**
- c) Consideration to Approve Fire Department Communications Radio Procurement through Motorola Solutions – **A motion was made by Council Member Ward to Approve Fire Department Communications Radio Procurement through Motorola. Council Member Crenshaw provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.**
- d) Consideration to Approve Right of Way Sale to 1 Brightwater Drive – **A motion was made by Council Member Crenshaw to Approve Right of Way Sale to 1 Brightwater Drive. Council Member Ward provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.**
- e) Consideration to Approve Town Notable Recognition Program – **A motion was made by Council Member Barbaree to Approve Town Notable Recognition Program. Council Member Crenshaw provided the second. After discussion of naming the council chambers after a previous council had already named the chambers, Council Member Barbaree and Council Member Crenshaw retracted their motions. Council Member Barbaree made a motion to table the Town Notable Recognition Program. Council Member Crenshaw provided the second. Motion to table passes unanimously.**

- f) Consideration to Approve Clayer & Co. event permit – **A motion was made by Council Member Ward to Approve the October 28<sup>th</sup> event from 4:00pm-9:00pm. Council Member Barbaree provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.**

9. **Department Report** – Written Reports Submitted

**by: Police / Municipal Court / Neighborhood Watch – Sean Clayton, Chief of Police**

Chief Clayton had nothing further to add to his report. Chief Clayton stated that anyone is welcome to speak with him to discuss the crime stats for Thunderbolt. These stats are compared from one year to the other. Chief Clayton stated that he tries to update next-door to let residents know when crime is active in the area. In regard to the dog attack, we couldn't release a lot of information due to HIPPA rules and it being an ongoing investigation, but he is all about squashing the rumors.

**Fire –Fire Chief, Andrew Bateman**

Chief Bateman had nothing further to add to his report. Chief Bateman stated we have just completed the ISO process. We will get our rating in 6-8 months. We will then have a year to make adjustments to improve the rating. He stated we are at a 4 or a 5 now, but would like to get back to a 3. We are live with the computer aided dispatch and things are running good so far. The Town is working with the City of Savannah. The new CAD system is much more efficient and includes more mutual aid.

**Public Works Department – Oscar Crosby, Public Works Manager**

Public Works Director Crosby stated chlorides are hanging in there. The Town has 6% unaccounted water. Usually, people try to get to 7-8%. Director Crosby stated we have the lowest % of unaccounted water in the county. A few years ago, the Town was up to 20% unaccounted water.

10. **Town Administrator Report:** Town Administrator, Bob Milie

Town Administrator Milie went over some highlights from his report. He showed an updated and more detailed concept for the Thompson Park Fountain. It will have local plants, small path, and possibly a shallow water jets to water the plants. Council Member Barbaree stated he would like to see solar lighting used. Mr. Milie stated this is a full redesign that will expose more of the sculpture, but not remove the patina. The rough estimate was about \$19,000 and does not include any tie in with shallow well installation. Council Member Crenshaw stated we can use SPLOST funds for our green areas. Council Member Ward stated he didn't like the price, but the work needs to be done. Town Administrator Milie stated Fountains and Such will be the contractor. Council Member Skipper-Greer suggested using plants that will work year-round. Town Administrator Milie stated he will have quotes available for the next council meeting to be approved.

11. **Legal Report** – First reading to modify STR Ordinances.

Mayor Williams conducted the first reading to modify the STR Ordinances. Attorney Barrow stated the changes were regarding the change of ownership and the parcel/property address break up. Council Member Skipper-Greer asked if there was a removal on the sign issue. She was informed we changed it to say the owner would issue letters to the neighbors with contact information so that private information is not displayed to the public. It will be added before the next reading.

12. **Mayor and Council**

13. **Thunderbolt Museum**

Anna Maria Thomas announced the museum's garage sale was very successful. Special shout out to Mayor Williams and Council Member Barbaree for helping with set up. All vendors made money. \$25 for a table if you want to be at our event. Christmas ornaments will be on sale for the Christmas party.

14. **Executive Session-** Mayor requests a motion and a second to recess into executive session for the purpose of Legal, Real Estate and/or Personnel matters. **Council Member Ward made a motion to recess into executive session. Council Member Crenshaw provided the second. Motion passes unanimously.**

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to open back into the regular meeting. **Council Member Crenshaw asked for the motion with a second from Council Member Ward. Motion passes unanimously.**

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Council Member Ward made the motion with a second from Council Member Crenshaw. The motion passed unanimously.**

15. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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Dana Williams, Mayor

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Matthew D. Walker, Interim Clerk of Council

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