



**TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023
6:00 PM
REVISED**

AGENDA HEARING

Public has five minutes per person to ask questions or comment on any agenda item. called meeting to order for public meeting at 6:03 pm

Stella Lavin, 3125 Robertson Ave, asked Council to consider parking with The Village Store liquor license. Mayor Williams stated they will.

Town Administrator Milie announced glass recycling is coming to Thunderbolt for pilot of 3 months. It will start at the Earth Day/Arbor Day Event. The recycling bin will be in the Senior Center's overflow parking lot.

Marianne Ganem Poppell – Egg Hunt. Earth Day/Arbor Day on April 22nd activities, Blessing of the Fleet, April 29th double number 3000 for this year. Recap of Egg Hunt will come out next week.

Cynthia Mauger, 2705 River Drive, recommended having more seating near the food trucks for the Blessing of the Fleet.

Council Member Drohan stated the Water Ad Hoc Committee efforts have kept us under the withdrawal rates set by EPD. The committee is looking to initiating more conservation efforts such as low flow toilets and faucets.

Anna Maria Thomas – Thunderbolt Museum – stated the museum made \$600 on the last garage sale. This month the museum will be at the be Blessing of the Fleet. Future fundraisers maybe an oyster roast and silent auction. Town Administrator Milie stated the 5000 eggs that were gone in 4 min was due to Mrs. Thomas assistance in stuffing the eggs.

Council Member Drohan stated there is a citizen conservation committee. If anyone is interested, they can sign up at the Earth Day table.

Georgia Municipal Association has a Youth Fellows Committee. Council Member Drohan is a part of this committee. Their goal is to expand involvement with youth, youth development, education, vocational and mental health. The committee is creating a list of priorities. They have met twice in person and has met by a couple of zoom meetings.

Mayor Williams asked Chief Clayton to update on the car thefts. Chief Clayton stated usually when issues arise in Thunderbolt, they also are happening in Savannah. Officers rang doorbells to see if anyone saw anything. Officers were able to get the description of the car seen at the scene of the crime. Officers were lucky it had a broken taillight and were able to pull them over. There was not enough evidence to arrest. Officers shared their information with

Savannah and they in turned shared the information to all their officers to be on the lookout for the vehicle. Sharing this information led to the arrest of the suspect.

REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to order

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

2. Roll Call by Presiding Officer with Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance were Mayor Dana Williams and Council Members: Bethany Skipper-Greer, Dave Crenshaw, Larry Ward, Ed Drohan, James Lavin and Brooks Barbaree. Staff in attendance were: Town Administrator, Bob Milie; Town Attorney, Charlie Barrow; Clerk of Council, Deatre Denion; Police Chief, Sean Clayton, Public Works Director, Oscar Crosby and Utilities/Accounts Payable Manager, Katina Spaulding.

Reverend Smalls gave the invocation.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Minutes of March 8, 2023

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the March 8, 2023 meeting minutes. **Council Member Ward made the motion to approve the March 8, 2023 meeting minutes with a second from Council Member Crenshaw. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Presentations:

a) **CASA Presentation** – Kate Blair – Announced it is Child Abuse Prevention Month. One of Thunderbolt's residents is a devoted volunteer, Cynthia Mauger. There are 90 volunteers to help with the children. They advocate in court for their best interest. Ms. Blair encourages citizens of Thunderbolt to volunteer. They will be trying to recruit at the Blessing of the Fleet. Mayor Williams asked if someone wanted more information where should they go. Ms. Blair stated anyone could go to the website brightsideadvacacy.org.

b) Corporal Michael Foran Excellence in Customer Service Recognition

Mayor Williams read and presented the Customer Service Recognition.

c) Earth Day Proclamation

Mayor Williams read and presented the Earth Day Proclamation to Ed Drohan

d) Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Williams read and presented the Arbor Day Proclamation.

e) **Tree City USA Recognition – Robert Seamans Jr., Georgia Forestry Commission**

Mr. Seamans Jr. presented Tree City USA year 11 to Mayor Williams. He spoke of working with staff and tree commission to get a grant for the town's tree canopy.

f) **Weeping Times Proclamation**

Rev. Smalls and Pastor Young, and a representative from Liteway Baptist Church were present to accept the proclamation. Mayor Williams stated he and Council Member Barbaree attended a Weeping Time Event and learned about this time in history.

Rev. Small spoke at 10 years old started the fight for civil rights. He is 72 years now and we are still fighting. We can do this. Down in Darian Georgia created a group with a overseer decedent and slave decedent. We need to save these iconic places so we can contemplate and not repeat history.

g) **Blessing of the Fleet Resolution**

Mayor Williams read the resolution for the Blessing of the Fleet concerning alcohol usage for the festival.

Town Attorney Barrow stated the Council needs to vote on the resolution. **Council Member Ward made the motion to approve the Blessing of the Fleet Resolution with a second from Council Member Crenshaw. The motion was approved unanimously.**

h) **Blessing of the Fleet Proclamation**

Mayor Williams wanted to do something a little different for people that have devoted their time to Thunderbolt. Anna Maria Thomas, Councilmen John Henry, Councilmen John Hall, Making them Fleet Ambassadors. Mayor Williams read the proclamation and provided a copy to each ambassador.

6. **Finance Report:**

Shannon Brett, Holland, Bromley, Barnhill & Brett, provided highlights of the town finances. Ms. Brett stated the finances are complete for the first quarter. Revenue is at 30% and expenses are at 21% of the budget. Budget amendments for 2022 must be posted and approved at the May meeting. On March 30th a meeting was held with Council Member Crenshaw and Town Administrator Milie to finalize the moving of the surplus funding. Money was moved to the Georgia Fund with over a 4% interest rate. Council Member Drohan asked with bank failures, are we looking at any problem to using a smaller bank. Ms. Brett stated we do not anticipate any issues. Council Member Crenshaw asked Town Administrator to explain state law with banking for governments. Town Administrator Milie explained the banks are not allowed to have free reign to lend money out. Council Member Crenshaw suggested the town could take the million dollar and break it down into smaller amounts for more than one bank.

7. **Discussion Agenda:**

a) **Petitioner:** Samuel & Mary Williams Jr.

Request: Subdivide lot

Parcel Involved: 30002 06029Y

Location: 212 Bonaventure Rd.

Michael Hough representing the Williams explained they wish to build a garage for their boat and have an apartment on top. Council Member Crenshaw asked if they need any variance. Mr. Hough stated they do not. **Council Member Ward made motion to approve the subdivide with a second from Council Member Drohan. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- b) Approve The Village Store, Ltd (Village on the Bluff) alcohol license at 2912 River Dr.

Laurie DeVegter, 2415 Tennessee Ave, explained they are starting a store at the Village on the Bluff. Provisions, snacks, sandwiches, gifts, antiques, selling wine bottles and cans will be what they will provide. There was a question about parking. Ms. DeVegter stated they met the parking requirements during development. There are four parking spaces for the retail. **Council Member Ward made the motion to approve The Village Store's alcohol license with a second from Council Member Barbaree. The motion passed unanimously.**

- c) Approval of the Home Occupation Permit for Low Country Cleaning at 3210 Woodlawn Dr.

Clerk of Council Denion explained Low Country Cleaning had a home occupation permit in the past but did not have a renewal last year. Ava Simons explained originally her mother owned the cleaning company and she is purchasing it from her. **Council Member Ward made the motion to approve the home occupation permit with a second from Council Member Drohan. The motion passed unanimously.**

- d) Approval of the Revocation of the Bait Shop Lease on Isle of Armstrong with Michael Purvis, Jr.

Mayor Williams asked for an approval for the revocation of the Bait Shop Lease on Isle of Armstrong with Michael Purvis, Jr. **Council Member Drohan made the motion to approve revocation with a second from Council Member Skipper-Greer. The motion passed unanimously.**

- e) Approval of the New Bait Shop Lease on Isle of Armstrong with Top of the Line, Bait & Tackle, LLC.

Town Administrator Milie explained this is the same lease as last month but with the cost being at \$550 for the entirety of the three-year lease. For the reduction in monthly cost, the lessee will be doing maintenance on the property, such as litter pick up and grass cutting. Staff recommends approval. Council Member Skipper-Greer asked if there is any issue with being on town property. Town Administrator Milie stated not with them having a lease. **Council Member Crenshaw made the motion to approve the lease as rendered with a second from Council Member Ward. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

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

Chief Clayton spoke about the person that was stealing the lottery tickets from Parkers. He reached out to a friend with the FBI, who directed Chief Clayton to a contact at the Pooler Police Department. Pooler has a face recognition software that they used to identify the suspect. After sharing with other municipalities who had it happen in their jurisdiction, an arrest was made.

Fire –Fire Chief, Andrew Bateman

Fire Chief Bateman had a family emergency and was not at the meeting.

Public Works Department – Oscar Crosby, Public Works Manager

Public Works Director Crosby stated they are beginning the paving projects, starting with Teeple, Lewis and Fire Station. This upcoming month the valve for Shell Rd will be added. Public Works Director Crosby stated crews are working at Senior Center on landscaping around the building.

Mayor Williams thanked all of staff for their help with the Egg Hunt.

9. **Town Administrator Report:** Town Administrator, Bob Milie
 - a) **Glass Recycling**
 - b) **Event Update**

Council Member Lavin asked about blight and how does the town define it? Clerk of Council Denion explained the definition varies on who is asked. The project for Council Member Drohan identifies blighted as vacant and not livable. Some say blight is derelict and run down but could be lived in.

10. **Legal Report – Town Attorney**

Town Attorney Barrow had nothing to report.

11. **Mayor and Council**

Mayor Williams asked Council Member Barbaree to speak on dog poop dispensers. Council Member Barbaree asked for staff to purchase dispensers to put in high traffic areas. Town Administrator Milie stated staff are looking at the best location and type of dispensers needed.

12. **Thunderbolt Museum**

Ms. Thomas gave her report during public hearing.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of Legal, Real Estate and/or Personnel matters. **Council Member Ward made the motion with a second from Council Member Crenshaw. The motion passed unanimously.**

13. **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.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to reconvene into regular session. **Council Member Crenshaw made the motion with a second from Council Member Ward. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

14. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.



Mayor, Dana Williams



Clerk of Council, Deatre N. Denion