



**TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023
6:00 PM
REVISED**

AGENDA HEARING

Public has five minutes per person to ask questions or comment on any agenda item.

Mayor Williams called the public hearing to order at 6:01 pm.

Council Member Drohan, speaking from the podium as a citizen, stated he has spoken with Sue DeRosa, Chair of the Tree Commission, concerning the fledgling Tree Commission. He suggested possibly joining the Tree Commission with Conservation Citizens Committee.

Council Member Drohan also spoke about fountain in the park. He explained Thunderbolt has received statewide recognition for water conservation, composting and glass recycling. As a citizen, he was concerned about maintaining the fountain as a fountain. Having a fountain connected to potable water would be counterproductive to conservation. He suggested using a non-potable source, such as the shallow well planned for the park could be used for the fountain.

Anne Maria Thomas, 1 Brightwater Dr, stated they could use the fountain for decorative without water, such as oyster shells and drift wood added.

Mayor Williams asked Town Administrator Milie that he thought it was to be a self-contained water source. Town Administrator Milie stated it would be.

Council Member Ward stated the fountain has been fixed twice and still does not work. Children have been seen playing with the plumbing. He suggested using it as a garden.

Council Member Barbaree asked, if possible, can we reduce the amount of water held and have fountain and garden.

Sue Delarosa, 3215 Bannon Dr., stated she is not a fountain expert, but recommended contacting others for assistance on addressing some of the issues with the fix. She mentioned the fountain in front of HomeGoods. Mayor Williams stated it was not properly created and the fixes were band aids, not a proper fix. Town Administrator Milie explained the fountain repair was a request from Council. The bids we received may not be a permanent fix. The park was designed to look nice not a play area for children, that is why there is no playground equipment.

Ms. DeRosa continued, main issue for rain harvesting is the amount of water saved. Anyone can implement this. As for the Tree Commission, she stated she is the Chair and the only active member. There was supposed to be 6 members and they serve a 2-year terms. One of those members is to be a Council Member.

Town Administrator Milie provided an Administrator Report. He stated he has reached back out to Denise Grabowski about the Shell Rd. project and waiting is for a response. The town has passed the second stage of the community grant with Senator Warnock. We put in for 12 million. It is now down to an \$8 million going into Congress.

Town Administrator Milie stated there will be another T-SPLOST vote this year. Council Member Drohan spoke that no Council Member cannot tell anyone how to vote but can tell citizens the benefits to the Town.

REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to order

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order 6:30 pm.

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

3. Those in attendance were Mayor Dana Williams and Council Members: 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, Fire Chief, Andrew Bateman and Utilities/Accounts Payable Manager, Katina Spaulding.

Not in attendance were Council Member, Bethany Skipper-Greer and Public Works Director, Oscar Crosby

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Minutes of April 12, 2023

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the April 12, 2023 meeting minutes. **Council Member Ward made the motion with a second from Council Member Crenshaw. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Presentations:

- a) Asian and Pacific Islander Recognition

Mayor Williams presented a proclamation for Asian and Pacific Islander Recognition Month to Rev. Truc Phan.

7. Finance Report:

- a) Approval of Budget Amendments for 2022

Shannon Brett, Holland, Bromley, Barnhill & Brett LLP, provided a summary of the financial report provided to Council. The April finances have been finalized. Revenue was at \$2.84 million, this is 32% of the annual budget. The Town should be at 33%. Expenditures were at 29% of the annual budget. The Towns cash is earning interest of 4.5% in the GA Fund and 4.7% at United Bank. Council Member Drohan asked how do we count the money on the interest on the cash. Ms. Brett stated it goes into the General Fund balance with a different line item. Town Administrator Milie stated it will be in next years budget since the Town never made money on their money. Council Member Drohan stated this is not income for the long haul. We need not to use this funding in a category to depend on the funding for the long haul.

Town Administrator Milie spoke on the budget amendments for 2022 provided in the packet. The General Fund was under budget over all. This is just moving money between line items. **Council Member Crenshaw made motion to approve budget amendments with second from Council Member Ward. The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Discussion Agenda:

- a) Approval of a Home Occupation Permit for Mz Alexiss Trucking LLC at 2827 Grant Street.

Ms. Alexis was in attendance. Mayor Williams asked if this was to be her hub. She stated yes and there would be no advertisement. Council Member Drohan asked about type of truck she will be using. Ms. Alexis stated it will be a box truck and she hopes to move up to a semi but that is a year later. She explained the truck will be parked on property. She lives on a dead-end street and no one will be able to see the truck. **Council Member Ward made motion to approve the home occupation permit with second from Council Member Crenshaw. The motion passed unanimously.**

- b) Approval of Fountain Repair for Thomson Park.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to table this agenda item. **Council Member Drohan made the motion to table the agenda item with a second from Council Member Crenshaw.** Mayor Williams asked for discussion. Council Member Drohan stated there has already been a discussion of options for the fountain and asked the mayor to create a committee to consolidate the options. **Council Member Drohan amended his motion to table until the next meeting for an update. The motion passed unanimously.**

- c) Discussion on Tree Commission Membership and Mission.

Town Administrator Milie stated Council needs to decide if they still want a Tree Commission. It is codified now but it can be changed. Mayor Williams asked Town Administrator Milie to look into this and provide options. Council Member Drohan asked Ms. DeRosa if she wants to help. Town Administrator Milie stated he was going to ask for her input. Council Member Crenshaw asked about when the Arborist would do inventory. Town Administrator Milie stated that is the second phase of the current project to calculate tree canopy and viable planting locations.

- d) Discussion on Rain Harvesting in Thunderbolt.

Mayor Williams stated several years ago someone came in to present on rain harvesting for the town. Town Administrator Millie stated it has not been at the top of the priority list. Council has the ability move it up on the list. Council Member Drohan stated Council has support the beautification and thinks this goes with the beautification mission. Town Administrator Milie stated he would have someone provide options for rain harvesting on public property.

9. Department Report – Written Reports Submitted

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

Council Member Drohan asked for Chief Clayton to speak on the video hearings and what infrastructure is needed. Chief Clayton stated the only infrastructure needed is laptop and TMI cord. Currently, officers must go and retrieve the prisoners and feed them. This will stop the officers from going to get the inmate. There is a risk of accidents. This will keep officers here for security. In the past, we have had some unruly inmates. Council Member Drohan asked if they are bound over do officers still have to take them to the County. Chief

Clayton stated no. Council Member Drohan asked about traveling for the hearings to allow defendants out on bond. Chief Clayton stated that is an arraignment hearing and the officer travels to them.

Chief Clayton stated for the last two days officers have been out on the range and have all passed their firing test. The CNT position has now been filled.

Mayor Williams thanked Police and all staff for their participation for Earth Day/Arbor Day/Blessing of the Fleet events.

Fire –Fire Chief, Andrew Bateman

Chief Bateman had nothing additional to report. Mayor Williams spoke of Chief Bateman handling of driving the float for the St. Patrick Parade. He was extremely calm with all the chaos around him.

Public Works Department – Oscar Crosby, Public Works Manager

Public Works Director Crosby is in training at Jekyll Island.

10. Town Administrator Report: Town Administrator, Bob Milie

Town Administrator Milie stated Public Works Director Crosby has been working with John Sawyer, retired Water & Sewer Director from City of Savannah. Mr. Sawyer helped the town piggyback with Savannah on having the town lines cameraed.

Town Administrator Milie stated it is Public Sector Employees Week and praised the employees in Thunderbolt. He spoke of how far they have come since he was hired. Mayor Williams dittoed the sentiment.

11. Legal Report – Town Attorney

No Report

12. Mayor and Council

Mayor thanked Emilie Bootsma for the use of the dock for Blessing of the Fleet.

Ad Hoc Committee – Council Member Drohan stated the ad hoc committee has expanded its focus from salvaging the water & sewer infrastructure to include Water Conservation. The billing has moved to actual cost of service and we are using water better. Now the committee would like to work towards conservation friendly homes and businesses. The committee would like to create a one year time frame to be certified in terms to conserve water.

Council Member Drohan was happy with the glass recycling but would like to see more advertisement and have a sign with “Clean Glass Only” added. He stated the Town should encourage restaurants to use the recycling bin. Council Member Drohan talked about the cost for disposal being based on weight. If we can reduce weight we will pay less money for trash.

13. Thunderbolt Museum

Anna Maria Thomas updated council on the museum. There will be a multi-vendor sale coming up. It will only be on the side of the building, not closing the street. There will be no sales June, July and August. November will be the oyster roast and silent auction.

Mrs. Thomas stated a vendor from the Blessing of the Fleet held a raffle and donated half the proceeds to the museum. That raffle earned then \$100. Frank Hardaman donated stuff from his mother's house. Mrs. Thomas sold those items and made \$600.

Mayor Williams asked Anna Maria if she would chair the fountain committee. She agreed.

Mayor Williams asked for a moment of silence for Commissioner Rivers' family.

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.

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

15. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm



Mayor, Dana Williams



Clerk of Council, Deatre N. Denion