

Town of Thunderbolt
Council Meeting January 14, 2026.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Comment at 6:00PM.

Stella Lavin approached Mayor and Council. Ms. Lavin stated she is with the Thunderbolt Community Improvement Association and they meet on the last Thursday of each month, 7:00PM at the College Park Baptist Church. She stated they are having a “Slow Down Thunderbolt Campaign” and they have signs to remind everyone to slow down. These can be purchased from the Association. Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Lavin.

Mayor Williams closed the Public Comment at 6:30PM.

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30PM, January 14, 2026. Those in attendance were Council Members Bethany Skipper-Greer, David Crenshaw, Lawrence Ward, Dr. Edward Drohan, Dawn Williams and Brooks Barbaree. Also in attendance were Charlie Barrow, Town Attorney; Matthew Walker, Town Administrator; Jan LeViner, Town Clerk.

James Lavin delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams formally welcomed the Town’s newest colleague, **Council Woman Dawn Williams** and congratulated her on her victory. He continued, Mayor and Council look forward to working with her over the next four years and beyond. Again, he stated, everyone pledges their undying support to her.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to have Brooks Barbaree as the Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Crenshaw so moved. **Council Member Drohan** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0.

Mayor Williams Approval of Meeting Agenda. **Council Member Ward** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

- Minutes, Public Hearing, December 3, 2025
- Minutes, December 10, 2025
- Minutes, Organization Meeting, January 2, 2026

Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the minutes as listed on the agenda. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Vote was unanimous, 6-0 to approve.

Mayor Williams asked Corporal Thompson and his family to come forward. He stated that Corporal Thompson has integrity and the professionalism that he brings to the office every single day is unmatched and we, the Town of Thunderbolt, are very fortunate to have him here with us. Chief Clayton gave a brief background of Corporal Thompson. He stated that he started his career in law enforcement in 2015 where he was working with the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. He came over to us in 2018 and in 2022 he started furthering his education. He went to the Professional Management Program, which is 400 hours of training with that training that received the Georgia Post Supervision and Management Certification. He made corporal in 2025, and he has now taken over the role of one of the Criminal Investigators. Corporal Thompson is currently working to complete his college degree. Sergeant Thompson's new badge

number will be 505, and his daughters will now pin his new rank on his uniform. Mayor Williams thanked Sergeant Thompson.

Mayor Williams recognized the following businesses and encouraged everyone to shop local:

- B&B Trailers
- Rogers Package
- Ali-Gator Marine Works
- Michael Gaster & Association

Wincy Poon, GIS Manager, Coastal Regional Commission, approached Mayor and Council to give an update on the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Poon stated “the current plan was last adopted in 2021 and per DCS requirement, all communities need to update their Comprehensive Plan every five years. That is so that you can maintain your qualified local government status that allows you to apply for state funding and other grants opportunities. The update process is very stakeholder driven. Your staff has already provided us with a list of stakeholders, and we’ll have stakeholder meetings. The three categories that we will focus on is revisiting the goals and visions of this of the Town, and then from there, we will also look at the needs and opportunities that has arisen since the last update, or looking in the future as well and then we will also update the data that includes census data, your demographic profile and also land use. The last category is your work program based on basically what you want to achieve in the next five years, your action items. The plan has five main sections. That is very important when you’re looking at rezoning and future development, where you want that development to come, where you want new businesses or industries, or any of these kinds of developments. And then the last thing the work program, again, is your action items, what you want to achieve, what you want to do in the next five years. DFA requires two public hearings, one at the beginning, which is where we are at right now, and one at the end. And in the middle, we’ll have three stakeholder meetings. Those are also open to the public, as Mr. Walker mentioned. The first stakeholder meeting will be February 10, at 6pm and we’ll focus on goals and needs and opportunities in that meeting, we are anticipating to have a draft plan for you to review by the end of May, and then July will be our second public hearing to kind of go through what we have done during those second meetings and what our findings are, and then we’ll also transmit that plan in July for their review, and hopefully by September, we can adopt the plan here”.

Anna Marie Thomas approached Mayor and Council to give an update on the Thunderbolt Museum. Ms. Thomas stated they are working with the businesses in the community for stuffers for welcome bags for new residents. She continued, they are planning a National Night Out, September 15, 2026. She is asking for people to work on the committee as the museum is going to host the event.

Shannon Brett approached Mayor and Council to give an overview of the financial activity of the Town. Ms. Brett explained the revenues and expenses are aligned with the amended budget. Transition to Spring Brook is underway in January and the 6th is the go live date for the financial module. Following that will be other modules, utility, billing, payroll, property and equipment licensing and permits, and finally, tax collection. Ms. Brett continued, there is approximately \$9.3 million in the Georgia Fund One and the interest rate is 3.79. There was a brief discussion regarding the Sinking Fund. She explained the fund basically provides a fiscal categorical representation of funds that the Town wants to set aside for explicit or global purposes.

Consideration of Consent Agenda:

- 2026 Simply Savannah Marketing Contract
- Intergovernmental Agreement: Hotel/Motel Tax Agreement

- Approve quote and scope of services pertaining to Well Number 4, Sole Source, \$18,000, Woodrow Sapp Well Drilling.
- Town of Thunderbolt Master Fee Schedule
- Alcohol Licenses
 - Finches
 - Tortugas
 - Topsy Turtle

Council Member Crenshaw made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. **Council Member Drohan** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0.

Council Member Ward made a motion to open the **Public Hearing**. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0.

- **Transmittal and Review of the Comprehensive Plan (Local Planning Process).** **Ms. Poon** approached Mayor and Council. Council Member Drohan asked if Mayor and Council could be provided monthly reports. Ms. Poon confirmed. She then there would be no change in terms of the Plan structure, but the content will be updated due to the new data from the census and stakeholders. There are new developments and growth happening in the region, so a lot of those may need to be changed. The next Stakeholder meeting will be on February 11, 2026, at 6:00PM, Town Hall. **Council Member Ward** made a motion to close the public hearing portion of the agenda. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0.

Mayor Williams opened the regular meeting.

Department Head Reports

Sean Clayton, Chief, Police Department, approached Mayor and Council to entertain any questions. Mayor Williams thanked Chief Clayton.

Chief Boyles, Fire Department, approached Mayor and Council to answer any questions regarding his report as included in the packet before them. Chief Boyles stated the new 911 system is active. He explained that when they are dispatched to a call, the system gives the firefighters the location of the first and second hydrant. This creates a very rapid response. Mayor Williams thanked Chief Boyles.

Oscar Crosby, Department of Public Works approached Mayor and Council. He gave a brief report on the work DPW is doing. Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Crosby for everything he does for the Town.

Matthew Walker, Town Administrator, congratulated Council Member Dawn Williams for her first meeting and welcomed her to the team. He continued, they put out the RFPs for the Honey Park Bathroom and for the roof of Town Hall. The bids are due on January 21, 2026. Once they are reviewed, he will bring before Mayor and Council. Staff reviewed the fee schedule, and it is included in the packet before them tonight. Mr. Walker stated wanted to mention that at the end of 2025 the total amount in the Georgia Fund One, between the two accounts, is almost \$9.3 million in 2025 alone, we earned \$257,000 a little over \$257,000 in interest just off of having the money in those accounts.

Jan LeViner, Town Clerk, stated they are working with AI to see how it can be used in the Town with the Comp Plan.

Legal Reports

No report.

Council Member Crenshaw asked for the following topics to be discussed:

- Sinking Fund: Set up for future needs
- Dupont Safety Program: recommending the Town undergo a DuPont Safety Program which is awareness of safety.
- OSHA reporting for Thunderbolt: As the Town is exempt from reporting accidents to OSHA, he would like to implement an inhouse program to ensure accidents are tracked.
- Goals: Goals to be discussed at the February workshop. Goals would be evaluated quarterly.
- Monthly publishing of reports updated by Town Administrator and Town Clerk: this is a good method of evaluating the progress of the Town.

Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Crenshaw for bringing these matters to the attention of Mayor and Council.

Council Member Crenshaw made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation, and real estate. **Council Member Ward** seconded. Motion to approve was unanimous, 6-0.

Council Member Ward made a motion to return to regular session. **Council Member Drohan** seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous, 6-0.

Council Member Crenshaw made a motion to adjourn. **Council Member Ward** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Jan LeViner, Clerk

Dana Williams, Mayor
Town of Thunderbolt