

Town of Thunderbolt
Council Meeting July 8, 2026
Minutes

Mayor Dana Williams opened the Public Comment period at 6:00 p.m.

Penelope Guild addressed the Mayor and Council to request an update regarding prorated registration fees. Mayor Williams stated that the applicable ordinances are currently under review and that recommendations will be forthcoming. Ms. Guild expressed her belief that a hardship clause should be incorporated into the ordinance. Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Guild for her comments.

Sue DeRosa addressed the Mayor and Council and requested that the Mayor enforce the five-minute time limit for residents speaking during the Public Comment portion of the agenda. She also requested that the Department of Public Works trim the vines growing on the oak trees along River Drive to improve the health of the trees.

Dr. Edward Drohan addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the fees associated with Short-Term Rental (STR) registration. He recommended that the administration review the costs associated with the registration fees and consider accommodations that could be implemented this year and take effect next year. Mayor Williams asked Town Clerk Jan LeViner if she would assume responsibility for reviewing the matter. Ms. LeViner agreed.

Councilmember Brooks Barbaree publicly commended the Thunderbolt Fire Department for its dedication and community outreach. He recognized the Department for participating in a Chatham County summer school program serving students with challenges and special needs by bringing a fire truck and providing an outstanding educational presentation. He noted that the students were highly engaged and reluctant to return to the classroom afterward. Councilmember Barbaree thanked the Department for its continued service.

Mayor Williams closed the Public Comment period at **6:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Mayor Williams called the regular meeting to order at **6:30 p.m. on July 8, 2026.**

Present:

- Mayor Dana Williams
- Councilmember Bethany Skipper-Greer
- Councilmember David Crenshaw
- Councilmember Larry Ward
- Councilmember Dr. Edward Drohan
- Councilmember Dawn Williams
- Councilmember Brooks Barbaree

Also Present:

- Charlie Barrow, Town Attorney
- Matthew Walker, Town Administrator
- Jan LeViner, Town Clerk

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Williams noted one correction to the agenda, changing "Bright Blocks Program" to **Blight Blocks Program**. **Councilmember Crenshaw** made a motion to approve the amended agenda. **Councilmember Skipper-Greer** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Ward made a motion to approve the minutes of **June 10, 2026**. **Councilmember Crenshaw** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Presentations

Blight Blocks Program. Nick Patrick presented an executive summary of the Blight Blocks Program (attached). He requested that funding for the project be considered during the upcoming budget process. Mr. Patrick also discussed FEMA disaster relief following hurricanes and storms and its potential impact on blighted properties. During discussion, Council suggested researching volunteer or other no-cost labor resources to assist budget-challenged property owners with overgrown grass and trash removal. Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Patrick for his dedication to the project.

Front Porch Update, Stephanie Ritzert, representing Front Porch, provided an update on the organization's services. She explained that Front Porch is a multi-agency resource center serving Chatham County youth ages 5 through 18, with a primary focus on at-risk youth. The organization offers a variety of support services and referrals to families in need. Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Ritzert and Front Porch for their continued commitment to the youth of Chatham County.

National Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation

Mayor Williams invited Oscar Crosby forward to accept the National Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation. She thanked Mr. Crosby and the Department of Public Works staff for their service to the Town of Thunderbolt.

Go Local Program Recognition

Mayor Williams recognized the following businesses as participants in the Go Local Program for the month of August:

- Franklin Law
- Thunderbolt Drone Services
- Ice House
- Intracoastal Concrete Construction, LLC

Public Hearing: Proposed 2026 Millage Rate

Councilmember Crenshaw made a motion to open the public hearing. **Councilmember Ward** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Town Administrator Matthew Walker explained the proposed millage rate, including the rollback rate and the current rate. Mayor Williams noted that the Town has several major capital projects to plan for and stated that the proposed **5.1 millage rate** would provide the funding necessary to meet those needs.

No action was taken, as this was the first required public hearing. **Councilmember Ward** made a motion to close the public hearing. **Councilmember Crenshaw** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Councilmember Ward then made a motion to resume the regular meeting. **Councilmember Crenshaw** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Reports

Thunderbolt Museum. Anna Marie Thomas provided an update on the Thunderbolt Museum. She thanked Mr. Ellis for restoring the two front paintings displayed in the museum. She announced that Cars and Coffee would be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026, and requested assistance from anyone with computer or printer expertise. She also reminded everyone about National Night Out in September.

Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Thomas for her continued dedication.

Financial Report: **Shannon Brett** presented the monthly financial report. Topics included the Sinking Fund, Georgia One Fund, and Sanction Fund. Ms. Brett reported that the annual audit had been completed with no findings. She stated that the Town is approximately halfway through the fiscal year, with revenues at approximately 40% of budget and expenditures near 50%, both of which are considered reasonable. She also reported that the transition from QS1 is progressing well, although it is taking longer than anticipated. Dr. Drohan expressed his desire to develop a plan for the use of Short-Term Rental registration fees. Ms. Brett agreed. Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Brett and her staff for their continued efforts.

Consent Agenda

- a. First Reading of Ordinance 2026-02 amending Section 5-304.G, Standards for Subdivisions, and Section 5-306, Definitions.
- b. Approval of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Debris Collection Services.

Councilmember Ward made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. **Councilmember Crenshaw** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Discussion Agenda

Resolution Supporting the City of Savannah's Vision Zero Action Plan

Councilmember Crenshaw made a motion to approve the resolution supporting the City of Savannah's Vision Zero Action Plan and affirming the Town of Thunderbolt's commitment to safe streets for all. **Councilmember Ward** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution

Councilmember Drohan made a motion to approve the Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. **Councilmember Williams** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Department Head Reports

Police Department: Chief Harley addressed Mayor and Council and responded to questions regarding his monthly report. He reported that the Department currently has one full-time vacancy with several applications pending. He also stated that staff are working with the Municipal Court Clerk and Municipal Judge to improve court efficiency. Discussion followed regarding vandalism occurring at the vacant nursing home property.

Public Works: Oscar Crosby presented the Public Works report and asked if Council had any questions. He stated that the Department would address the overgrown vines along River Drive. Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Crosby and his staff for their continued service.

Town Clerk: Town Clerk Jan LeViner reported that her written report had been provided to Council and asked if there were any questions. She also summarized her recent training through the Georgia Municipal Association. Mayor Williams thanked Ms. LeViner.

Town Administrator: Town Administrator Matthew Walker updated Council on current Town projects, including:

- Sustainability Summer Event
- Honey Park restroom project
- Tree planting event
- Draft Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Walker for his continued leadership.

Legal Report

No report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Williams announced that a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been executed between the Thunderbolt Fire & Rescue Department and the Tybee Island Marine Rescue Squadron. She stated that the agreement will enhance emergency response capabilities and thanked Chief Boyles and former Chief Socks for their efforts in developing the partnership.

Council Comments

Councilmember Crenshaw discussed revising the Town's Senior Citizens Property Tax Relief program and exploring options to accomplish the revisions without legislative action by the State.

Executive Session

With no further business before Council, Councilmember Ward made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation, and real estate matters. Councilmember Crenshaw seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Councilmember Crenshaw made a motion to return to Regular Session. **Councilmember Ward** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Councilmember Ward made a motion to adjourn. **Councilmember Crenshaw** seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 6–0.

Jan LeViner, Clerk

Dana Williams, Mayor
Town of Thunderbolt