

Town of Thunderbolt
Council Meeting November 12, 2025.

Mayor Williams opened the public comment at 6:00PM.

Stella Lavin approached Mayor and Council to ask for clarification of the Mutual Understanding. Mr. Walker gave a brief description. Ms. Lavin also spoke about the variance request on the agenda.

Mayor Williams closed the public comment at 6:30PM.

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30PM, November 12, 2025. Those in attendance were Council Members Bethany Skipper-Greer, David Crenshaw, Lawrence Ward, Dr. Edward Drohan, James Lavin and Brooks Barbaree. Also in attendance were Charlie Barrow, Town Attorney; Matthew Walker, Town Administrator; and Jan LeViner, Town Clerk.

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

Approval of Meeting Agenda. Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the agenda with moving item 8d to Discussion Agenda. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting, October 8, 2025. Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the minutes. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Vote was unanimous 6-0 to approve.

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

- Savannah Window Fashions
- Tubby's Tankhouse
- Caliber Collision
- Luminary

Mayor Williams read a Proclamation for Veteran's Day and asked if there were any veterans in the audience to please come forward. They were given a standing ovation.

Mayor Williams read a Proclamation for John Merritt and recognized his family members that were in the audience.

Anna Marie Thomas approached Mayor and Council to give an update on the Thunderbolt Museum. Ms. Thomas stated the Oyster Roast was a huge success and thanked the Board for all their assistance in preparing for the event. Ms. Thomas stated there are good things coming in the next year and reminded everyone they now have sweatshirts and caps for sale. Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Thomas for all her hard work with the Museum.

Mayor Williams also reminded everyone of the Christmas on the Bluff and the lighted boat parade. If anyone is interested, they need to reach out to Maari Bennett.

Shannon Britt approached the Mayor and Council to give an overview of the October financial activity of the Town. She stated all the accounts are closed with United Community Bank and everything is with Bank South and Georgia Fund One. Ms. Britt stated the cash at the end of October totaled about \$11.6M and \$9.2M of that is in the Georgia Fund One account. The budget

is reflective of about 83% of the year which is on track. Training is ongoing with Springbrook and Katina Spaulding and her office are working hard on the transition.

Consideration of Consent Agenda:

- a. W. E. Honey Park Bathroom Construction Request for Proposal
- b. Thunderbolt Town Hall Roof Repair Request for Proposals
- c. Approval of Lexipol Service Agreement for Grant Services
- d. Mutual Understanding: Communication with and between Local Law Enforcement Agencies between Savannah-Chatham Board of Education Police Department and Thunderbolt Police Department

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

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing: Board of Zoning Appeals

- Variance Request: Subdivide one corner parcel lot into two separate residential lots, Wood and Dogwood Avenue, 2603 Dogwood Avenue. Petitioner: Laurie deVegter.

Council Member Drohan made a motion, “in that the central question regarding the appropriateness of the subdivision of parcel number 3000404007 in the Town of Thunderbolt Georgia represents the need to assess the complex comparison of ordinances and the histories of the development of the surrounding properties and that these complexities have not been adequately evaluated in my opinion and in light of the fact that due to the limited number of properties available for development in the Town, often with structural challenges of their own that have restricted development in the past, as well as the predictable requests for “tear downs” and reconstruction as often occur in municipalities such as the Town of Thunderbolt that are experiencing significant residential and commercial interest in the local market place, I believe that in the future the Town of thunderbolt will be presented with multiple opportunities to address similar questions as are currently before us regarding property development and that we must as a Town be prepared for the eventuality. As such, I ask that the petitioner be referred back to the Planning and Zoning, asking that they fully examine these issues both in terms of the call for a variance on this particular property and to address the important historical implications for property development in the Town that this petition highlights”. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0. **Discussion: Council Member Lavin** stated his question comes around the variance issue that the Town seems to struggle with as the Township is creating hardship sometimes by trying to make something happen that our current ordinance is against. He believes that the Planning Commission can reconsider the variance request. Council Member Lavin complimented the Planning and Zoning Commission as he believes that they are diligent in their review of the Code and recommendations to Mayor and Council on requests. A discussion ensued regarding a potential workshop with Mayor and Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Discussion Agenda:

- a. Award the bid for the Elevated Storage Tank Improvements: BRW Construction, \$448,053. Oscar Crosby, DPW, gave a timeline of the events pertaining to the valve for the water tower. He continued, the bid was put out and only one bid was received. The RFP was also put on the Procurement Website. **Council Member Crenshaw** stated he is not comfortable with the bid and would like to table the item until the next Town Council meeting. **Council Member Ward** seconded. Vote was unanimous to table the agenda item. Vote was unanimous, 6-0.

Department Head Reports

Chief Clayton, Police Department, approached Mayor and Council to entertain any questions. He reminded everyone of the holiday season and to ensure your cars and homes are locked. Also please be vigilant when in public places.

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 all necessary training is scheduled and he is getting prepared for the GBI Audit.

Oscar Crosby, Department of Public Works approached Mayor and Council. He gave a brief report of DPW's work and stated the new Christmas Tree has arrived and will be put up soon.

Matthew Walker, Town Administration, reported the proposed 2026 Budget will have the first reading on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 6:30PM. He continued, the sidewalk repair project is complete, and Mr. Crosby is developing a maintenance plan for the sidewalks and replacing those that are cracked all the way through. The Town is accepting RFPs for Town Hall Roof and Honey Park Bathrooms. Also, the new Christmas tree will be going up soon at Thompson Park. Mr. Walker also reminded everyone of upcoming events for the Town.

Jan LeViner, Town Clerk, reminded everyone of the inauguration on January 9, 2026, at Town Hall with the reception immediately following at Bahia Bleu.

Legal Reports

No report.

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 approve the contract with Coleman Company for Professional services for Drainage Improvements. **Council Member Ward** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 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 8:30PM.

Jan LeViner, Clerk

Dana Williams, Mayor
Town of Thunderbolt