

Town of Thunderbolt
Council Meeting March 11, 2026
Minutes

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

Geneva Golden approached Mayor and Council to speak to the cemetery on 52nd and Skidaway, Oak Grove Cemetery. The cemetery is not maintained, and she asked if Staff would research so the Town could secure ownership of the cemetery. Ms. Golden stated she has researched and called the State to no avail. Dr. Drohan asked the Town Administrator, Matthew Walker, to research. Ms. Golden also brought attention to the diseased trees at Nellie Johnson Park. Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Golden, and stated Staff will look into this issue.

Sue DeRosa approached Mayor and Council to ask for clarification of tree permit fee as on the website verses/ordinance states there is no fee. She also stated there is an error on the minutes, deceased/not decade.

Claire Williams, Judge, Recorder's Court, approached Mayor and Council. Judge Williams asked residents to spread the word about the May 19, 2026, election and gave a brief history of the Recorder's Court. Mayor Williams thanked her for her dedication to Chatham County.

Nick Patrick approached Mayor and Council. Mr. Patrick acknowledged Chief Clayton and Chief Boyles for their dedication and professionalism to the community. He then thanked Chief Clayton for his work regarding speeders on Whatley Avenue. Mayor Williams also thanked Chief Clayton and Chief Boyles for their hard work and everything they do for the community.

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

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30PM, March 11, 2026. Those in attendance were Council Members Bethany Skipper-Greer, David Crenshaw, Lary Ward, Dr. Edward Drohan, Dawn Williams and Brooks Barbaree. Also in attendance were Charlie Barrow, Town Attorney; and Matthew Walker, Town Administrator. Jan LeViner, Town Clerk, was excused.

Mayor Williams delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from February 11, 2026. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Vote was unanimous, 6-0 to approve.

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

- RiverDrive Crossfit
- Missy Nyburg Construction

- Pink Elephant Catering
- Empowered Foundation Therapy

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and open the **Public Hearing**. **Council Member Crenshaw** seconded. Motion was unanimous to approve, 6-0. Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing: Board of Zoning Appeals

- **Request to subdivide one (1) parcel into two (2) separate residential lots, Bannon on one side and Gilreath Drive on other. Petitioner Akeem Brown, Parcel ID: 30005 01042.** The petitioner, **Akeem Brown**, approached Mayor and Council. Mr. Brown explained his request to subdivide his property into two separate residential lots. He stated all requirements have been met and he is requesting approval. **Council Member Drohan** made a motion to approve. **Council Member Ward** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve, 6-0.

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

Anna Marie Thomas was not in attendance. Mayor Williams encouraged everyone to attend the Cars and Coffee which is held the second Saturday of each month, 8:00 – 11:00AM. Mari Bennett reminded everyone of the Town Wide Yard Sale, May 18, 2026.

Shannon Brett approached Mayor and Council to give an overview of the financial activity of the Town. Ms. Brett stated they are preparing for the audit and Maulden and Jenkins will be onsite the week of April 27, 2026. They are also working on finalizing all the accounts. She then gave an update on the new software, Springbrook. They are moving forward with phases/modules and QS1 is still being used for certain tasks. She emphasized everyone is motivated to move forward with Springbrook. Ms. Brett stated there is \$12.2M in cash and interest for GA Fund 1 is 3.78%.

Consideration of Consent Agenda:

- **Town Hall Roof Repair Estimate. Matthew Walker, Town Administrator,** stated he wanted to add 10% contingent fee for any unknown repairs to Town Hall.
- **Film Production Application/Agreement: Comeback King, Tap Out Production, LLC. April 9 – 10, 2026. Mr. Walker, Town Administrator,** stated there are no issues and the Production Staff is working with the Town to ensure there are no issues.

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

Department Head Reports

Sean Clayton, Chief, Police Department, approached Mayor and Council and stated the Cadet at the Academy is due to graduate in April 2026. Mayor Williams thanked Chief

Clayton and his Staff for all their hard work and professionalism. Chief Clayton stated the Force is at full staff.

Chief Boyles, Fire Department, approached Mayor and Council. Chief Boyles asked residents to ensure their addresses are visible from the street and well as on their mailboxes as this will aid in emergency vehicles locating them in case of an emergency. He continued, the Town had their Regional State Audit, and the Fire Department met their quality standards. Mayor Williams thanked Chief Boyles for his hard work, and he recognized all the hard work the fire department does. The department is very close to being fully staffed which is huge going forward. With this, he will be able to start work on the ISO which will help with insurance ratings.

Oscar Crosby, Department of Public Works, approached Mayor and Council. Mr. Crosby started the chlorides look good and should have well #4 up and running next week. Regarding the flowers that Staff has planted at the parks and in front of Town Hall are for everyone to enjoy, please do not pick or dig up. Mayor Williams reminded the residents not to blow grass clippings into the road or ditches as it can cause accidents and flooding due to drains being clogged. He thanked Mr. Crosby and his Staff for all their hard work.

Town Administrator Report: Matthew Walker. Mr. Walker stated that he and the Town Clerk, Jan LeViner, attended an AI Boot Camp in Athens recently and it was very beneficial. He has also received the modified bid for the roof, and he is very appreciative of the Mayor and Council supporting this project. He reported the Town held their second Stakeholder Meeting for the Comprehensive Plan and the third and final meeting regarding land use will be held on April 1, 2026. The Town has been approved for the 2026 LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant) funding and has been allocated for Cedar Street and will be issuing an RFP later this month. Mr. Walker reminded everyone that the Blessing of the Fleet will be on April 25, 2026 and is asking if residents or business owners would like to participate in the parade to go to the Blessing of the Fleet website to complete an application.

Legal Reports

No report.

Dr. Drohan gave a brief report on the Stakeholder's Meetings. He continued that SPLOST will not catch the Town up and repair everything that is needed. Dr. Drohan would also like to start monthly discussions on repairs/funding to the infrastructure. Mayor Williams will assist the Town Administrator in scheduling future workshops.

Council Member Ward recognized the Fire and Police Department Staff for their professionalism in dealing with circumstances at his home. He has nothing else to say but, with their knowledge and how they reacted, made him feel secure with the circumstances. Again, thank you.

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

Council Member Crenshaw 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 7:15PM.

Jan LeViner, Clerk

Dana Williams, Mayor
Town of Thunderbolt