

## Council Work Session

March 19, 2026

Meeting began at 5:00pm.

Invocation by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Edward Armijo.

Present were Mayor J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr., Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe, Councilman Edward Armijo, City Attorney Rebecca Tydings, and City Administrator Krista Bedingfield. Councilman Justin Wright arrived to the meeting at 5:04pm.

Welcome Extended by Mayor J. Micheal Evans to all those in attendance and on social media at the meeting. Special welcome to Dr. Richard Rodgers, Houston County Superintendent of Schools, Thomson Middle School staff, students and parents.

Mayor's Moments: Mayor J. Micheal Evans recognized Thomson Middle School, located at 301 Thomson Street, Centerville, for the following achievements:

- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter at Thomson Middle School, for outstanding accomplishments at the Georgia State Leadership Conference (March, Columbus, GA); the theme was "The Final Production".
  - Largest chapter in Region 7.
  - Opportunities earned to compete at the National level in Washington D.C., July 2026.
  - Students were recognized for several first-place finishes and perfect scores in several competitive events:
    - ❖ Creed Speaking: 1<sup>st</sup> Place(Gold) Level 1-Aayah Saymeh  
4<sup>th</sup> Place (Gold) Level 1-Austyn Gray
    - ❖ Star Events (Career Investigation, Chapter Service Project Display, Focus on Children, Job Interviews, etc.): Antonio Avalos, Madeline Herron, Jolie Abuazizah, and Vera Grace Smith (1<sup>st</sup> Place, Perfect Score); Zoe Francis and Isabella Jara (1<sup>st</sup> Place, Perfect Score); Shiloh Cohen, Rha'Niyah Zachary, and Chloe Jablonski (1<sup>st</sup> Place); TJ Hicks Dickey, Cadence Cox, and Emmera Burgman (1<sup>st</sup> Place); Dakota Jones and Madison Spikes (1<sup>st</sup> Place, Perfect Score).
- 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team, "Lady Tigers", recognized as County Champions with a 13-0 record (undefeated season, best in school history, first championship in over 8 years).
  - Winning 10 of the 13 games by 20 points or more, showcasing their hard work, teamwork, and dedication both on and off the court.
  - Recognition given to Coach Jayne Zachary (Coach JZ), Athletic Director Matthew Simon, and Team members: Abby Burch, Symphonique Merchant, Tamia Davis, Gracie Crofutt, Khloe Lawson, Malaysia Hopson, Halee Jolissaint, Sarai Sturn, D'Andra Valentine, Abbi Cook and Serenity Moody.

Photographs taken with students, parents, coaching/advisory staff, and council/board members. Mayor praised students, noted their impact and the city's pride in their representation.

### Public Comments

No public comments made.

### Old Business

No old business.

## Agenda Amendment

Request made to add a third item to the agenda under New Business-Proclamation for National Public Works Week.

Motion to add the item Proclamation for National Public Works Week under New Business was given by Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe. Second by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion carried. Unanimous.

## New Business

IGA Agreement Houston County Board of Education and City of Centerville-Fireworks: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield presented an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Centerville and Houston County Board of Education to grant access to the Centerville Fire Department and the pyrotechnics vendor to utilize the back field at Centerville Elementary School as the designated set-up site for the Independence Day Event Fireworks show on July 3, 2026. Previous sites (Houston Galleria Mall parking lot, Centerville City Hall parking lot) are no longer viable due to new construction and logistical challenges. City Attorney Rebecca Tydings has reviewed and found no issues with the agreement. Special thanks given to Superintendent Dr. Richard Rogers and Deputy Superintendent Chris Brown, Maintenance Superintendent Billy Dollar and Fire Chief Jason Jones for their help. Houston County School Board to consider agreement for final approval at next meeting on June 2, 2026. Lastly, Pyrotechnics vendor has been notified and are able and willing to move locations for the show.

Motion to approve IGA Agreement with Houston County School District as written given by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Second by Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans offers an explanation for the change and ensures that there will be no issues, and that firefighters will be in place. Public invitation issued to attend the Independence Day Celebration on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 3:00pm to 10:00pm (fireworks conclusion)

Resolution -Water and Sewer Surplus Property 2007 Ford F 150: Utilities Superintendent Chris Coleman and City Administrator Krista Bedingfield presented a request to declare a 2007 Ford F150 4WD as surplus property due to unmanageable vehicle repair costs. The vehicle would then be placed up for auction on GovDeals, with a minimum bid set at \$1,500.

Motion to declare surplus 2007 Ford F150, Water and Sewer property, given by Councilman Justin Wright. Second by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Proclamation- National Public Works Week (May 17-23, 2026): City Administrator Krista Bedingfield read the proclamation declaring May 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, as National Public Works Week, "Rooted in Service, Powered by Community". Recognition given to the Public Works professionals' importance to infrastructure, safety, sustainability, and quality of life. Special thanks given to Utility Superintendent Chris Coleman and staff, noting Mr. Coleman's 22 years of service (as of October 1).

No action taken.

## Comments from Council

Post 1: Councilman Robert D, Bird, Jr. offered congratulations to the Thomson Middle School students for their outstanding achievements, noting that the steps they are taking now will help prepare them for life later. Councilman Bird offer thanks to the public works staff for all their hard work, noting that issues are fixed before council even knows there was an issue to begin with.

Post 2: Councilman Justin Wright reiterates Post 1, Councilman Bird's statements of congratulations and appreciation to Thomson Middle School and Public Works Department.

Post 3: Councilwoman Velicia Y. Lowe acknowledges and offers congratulations to the FCCLA, wishing them safe travels for their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. Councilwoman Lowe acknowledges and congratulates the Thomson Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball team for their undefeated season and all their hard work in getting there. Councilwoman Lowe reiterated appreciation to the public works staff for all they do.

Post 4: Councilman Edward Armijo offers congratulations to the students at Thomson Middle School for their achievements, and to the public works department for all they do for the city and our citizens. Councilman Armijo mentioned his recent invitation to participate in the Feagin Mill Middle School Career Day event, giving him the opportunity to speak to students and share about his experiences working in local government. He made a public announcement that the Centerville Fire Department will be conducting fire hydrant flow tests during the month, offering residents' reassurance for the purpose of safety checks.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans reiterates other council's statements of congratulations and appreciation to Thomson Middle School and the Public Works Department.

Mayor J. Micheal Evans highlighted the following upcoming community events:

- Independence Day Celebration: July 3rd, 3 PM–10 PM at Center Park.
- Farmers Market: May 22, 2026 (Friday), 9 AM–1 PM.
- Food Truck Friday: June 5, 2026 (first Friday in June).

Mayor J. Micheal Evans adjourned the meeting at 5:28pm.

---

Mayor J. Micheal Evans

---

Attest by City Clerk Lee Siefert

---

Date