



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2022

6:00PM

Thomson-McDuffie Government Center

Present:

Kenneth Usry, Mayor
Alton Belton, Councilmember
Keryl Corley, Councilmember
Elaine Johnson, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Scott Whittle, Councilmember
John Waller, City Administrator
Lucretia Ferguson, City Clerk
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Shanda Reese-Grant, HR Director
Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress
Nathaniel Usry
Nora Douglas
Paul Daly

At 6:00pm, Mayor Kenneth Usry called the regularly scheduled City Council meeting to order and City Attorney Plunkett gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Paul Daly spoke to the Council on his Recycle Center concerns, including the center closing and current allocation of last year's budget for the center.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the agenda as written. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, December 9, 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the minutes. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

BUSINESS:

- a. Scott Huff, thirty year anniversary: Water-Sewer Distribution Director Scott Huff was recognized for his service to the City of thirty years.
- b. Acceptance of Oak Lane: The approval of the street was implied but never formally accepted in the July 8, 2020 Council meeting. A deed has now been executed by the developer of Oak Grove to give Oak Lane to the City and has been recorded in the McDuffie County deed records. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to accept the Oak Lane deed so it will become a city street. A 5-0 vote in favor was taken.

- c. Vendor and Peddler Permit: An Indemnification and Waiver of Liability and a list of nine points to clarify what an issued permit holder's responsibilities are, was presented to the Council by City Administrator Waller. These would be an addition to the current permit. Councilmembers asked if the person who is issued the permit has to be the person who is the vendor. Attorney Plunkett noted that you must be eighteen or over to obtain a license. A parent would have to apply for a minor. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle to approve the addition to the permit and was seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A vote of 4-0 passed the motion. Councilmember Smalley abstained due to a family member's involvement in selling water from the road side.
- d. Water Meter Installation Contract discussion: The Water Meter change out has taken longer than first estimated. The GEFA loan that was approved for a total of \$1.6 million has a time constraint attached, although they will extend the time if any delays are due to supply chain issues. Carter & Sloope Engineers issued a Request for Proposal for installing 2,400 meters. Beam Site Prep came in as the lowest and best bidder at \$439,775, which is under the budgeted amount of \$500,000. They will also break the installation into portions to allow the Utility Billing time to enter the new meters into their data base. CA Waller then noted that this contract must first be presented to the Water and Sewer Commission on January 18th for their approval. Assuming that it will be approved at that meeting, Mayor Usry asked that the Council then respond with a telephone poll on January 19th with their votes on this contract. The pre-construction conference needs to be held in early February, before the Council meets again.
- In an addition to these Minutes: Mayor Usry met separately with each Councilmember by telephone on January 19, 2022. Councilmembers Whittle, Belton, Smalley, Johnson and Corley unanimously gave their approval for the Beam's Site Prep contract that was approved by the Thomson-McDuffie Water and Sewer Commission on January 18, 2022.
- e. Ordinance 578 Repeal of City Ordinances Related to Fire Service: City Attorney Plunkett explained that by ordinance the City is obligated to, among other things, provide fire service within its boundaries and fulfill a reciprocal agreement to assist the County fire department. All City fire ordinances must be repealed as the City and County, by Intergovernmental Agreement, merged fire departments and it is now a County department. This ordinance will remove all obligations in previous ordinances related to City fire services or City fire department personnel. This is the first reading.
- f. Resolution 01-2022 Historic Preservation Fund Application: This would allow the City to apply for a matching funds grant from the Department of Community Affairs funding the development of commercial guidelines that will help to retain the historic character of the designated commercial historic district. The City would be eligible to receive up to 60% from DCA by matching with 40% of the total amount. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve the recommendations. After a discussion on the residential guidelines a vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report: Councilmember Belton thanked all for their support when he had a family death recently.

City Administrator Report: CA Waller informed the Council that the City departments are prepared for any bad weather we might have this weekend. Directors have checked their supplies and machinery.

Mayor Report: Mayor Usry spoke on a future grant opportunity to help with storm water problems around First Avenue, the museum and adjacent parking lots on Church Street. Although the current allocation of money is no longer available, Linda Grijalva of the CSRA Regional Commission is putting the application together to be ready when the next funding opportunity opens. He then reminded the Council of several upcoming events.

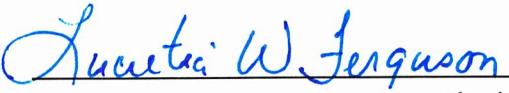
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

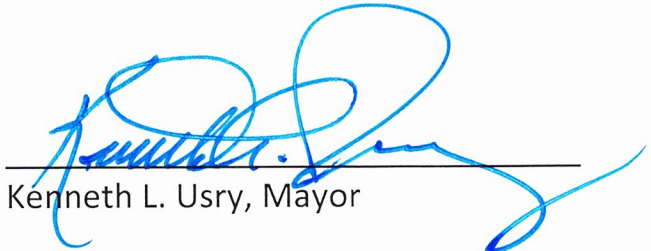
Having no other public business, the motion was made at 6:36pm by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Real Estate acquisition discussion. A 5-0 vote passed the motion.

After the discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to return to regular session at 6:49pm.

A motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 6:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

