



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 14, 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:

Chief Courtney Gale, TPD
Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress
4 Guests

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:

No one signed in for Citizen Input.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Usry asked that the Agenda be amended to add discussion on the Thomson Women's Club Building at 305 Main Street. The motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the agenda with the addition. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, March 10, 2022. A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the minutes. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

BUSINESS:

- a. Ordinance 580: Outside Consumption of Alcohol/Downtown Dining District: Second Reading. CA Waller explained that the map was updated to include the 191 West Hendricks Street restaurant, The Crab & Hibachi House, as they have an alcohol license. He talked of the boundaries of the Downtown Dining District and the guidance that will be given to each restaurant within the District and each involved government agency in town. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley to approve Ordinance 580. A vote of 4-0 was taken in favor, with Councilmember Smalley abstaining.
- b. Resolution 04-2022: Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia Voting Delegate: This Resolution would appoint Natural Gas Department Head Rodney Dunaway as the voting delegate and Mayor Usry as the alternate to the 2022

MGAG Election Committee. A motion to approve the appointments was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A 5-0 vote in favor was taken.

- c. Resolution 05-2022 Application for Fiscal Year 2022 Community Development Block Grant: This Resolution authorizes the filing of the 2022 CDBG application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs by the deadline of June 3, 2022. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to approve the resolution and was seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.
- d. 2022 CDBG Engineering Contract Award: A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to award the CDBG contract to Civil Design Solutions of Warrenton, GA from the four engineering firms that submitted bids. The motion awarding the contract passed with a 5-0 vote.
- e. Adoption of 2022 CDBG Housing Policies and Procedures: This new list from the Federal Government is required to be adopted before we can make application for the 2022 CDBG. A motion made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Corley to approve the recommendations was passed with a 5-0 vote.
- f. Highrail Request to Close Journal Street: Highrail Southern Eatery has requested that Journal Street, from Main Street to Central Avenue, be closed from 12:00pm-9:00pm in support of the Braves Trophy Tour on April 21, 2022. They plan to serve food and set up tables for visitors. A motion to approve the request was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Johnson. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.
- g. GDOT Memorandum of Understanding, P.I. 0013258: A Georgia Department of Transportation MOU concerning the project located at Washington Road and Dallas Drive has been received. The City will provide the engineering plans and contract estimate for a Sanitary Sewer Manhole and Water Valve that are within the project area. This will be included when the project is advertised for bids. All work will be under GDOT supervision. A motion to approve the MOU was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A 5-0 vote in favor was recorded.
- h. Thomson Women's Club Building/Old Library: Mayor Usry explained the old Library has not been rented for several years and the property lines are the same as the walls of the building. Lee Anne Cowart Interiors and Phil Farr own the respective southern and eastern adjoining properties. The Downtown Development Authority is in a good position to market and sell the building, and the Mayor requested that the Council approve gifting it to the DDA. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Smalley for the City to gift the property to the Downtown Development Authority. A vote in favor was taken, 5-0.
The mayor informed all that the Jackson Street fire station has been sold by the Land Bank, putting funds into the Land Bank account for their next project.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report: Councilmember Johnson reminded CA Waller of her list of ditches to be cleaned. Councilmember Smalley spoke of trying to contact the owner of a burned property on Ellington Avenue. A potential buyer would like to speak with the owner. Councilmember Alton Belton spoke on an overflowing ditch at Springfield Apartments. Councilmember Keryl Corley brought to the City's

attention that Manna will host a Farmer's Market on the last Friday of each month from 11:00am-2:00pm. This will be in conjunction with and run by Augusta Locally Grown. Open to everyone, those that have EBT or SNAP funds will receive twice the amount of those dollars in fresh produce. She also noted that in the area of North Lee and Main Streets, the State road construction is confusing, especially after dark, as the spacing of the reflective barrels is hiding the turn onto North Lee. Mayor Usry assured her that GDOT will be contacted about the problem.

City Administrator Report: CA Waller brought to the Council that Police Chief Gale is communicating with Blue Line, a company that specializes in speed control for school zones. If an agreement is reached, Blue Line would fund, manage and install laser speed detectors and cameras to be used exclusively when school is in session. A photo would be taken of the tag of any speeder and a ticket would be sent to the owner of the vehicle. The City would retain 65% of all fines levied and only pay the power bill associated with the hardware. There would be a grace period with extra signage and information before starting the actual ticketing in four school zones. After Chief Gale and CA Waller answered questions concerning Blue Line, the next updates were on parking lot re-striping for several different City lots, the Water-Sewer Commission meeting next week, awaiting the second tranche of ARPA funding in May, grant opportunities through Senator Warnock's and Senator Ossoff's offices, the City exploring more grant opportunities with the CSRA Regional Development office, and in May the UGA Archway students will be presenting their formal presentations and cost estimates for the Railroad Street park and Journal Street projects.

Mayor Report: Mayor Usry spoke on the UGA Public Service and Outreach staff that visited Thomson in March and were excited about how Archway and the City are working together to better the community. He spoke on the City Farmer's Market will start their weekly Saturday morning market in June and the Braves night scheduled for next Thursday, the 21st, encouraging all to participate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Having no other public business, the motion was made at 6:39pm by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Belton to go into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel. A 5-0 vote passed the motion.

After the discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to return to regular session at 7:05pm, with a 5-0 vote in favor.

A motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A favorable vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

