



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 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
8 Citizens

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

CITIZEN INPUT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Usry asked that an additional item be added concerning an appointment to the Land Bank Authority. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the agenda as amended. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, June 9, 2022: A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the minutes. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

BUSINESS:

- a. Alcohol License Application for Sprint at 101 East Hill Street: Sprint Food Stores has changed ownership and must have a license in order to continue to sell beer and wine. They have completed the qualifications, paid the fees and would like to be licensed by the City. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the application. A vote of 4-0 was taken in favor, with Councilmember Smalley abstaining.
- b. Garbage Rate Increase: Waste Management (WM) notified the City by letter on June 10th that a rate increase would go into effect on July 1st. If the City absorbs the increase, it would cost \$45,000 yearly.

There is a provision in their contract that allows WM to increase their fees if the cost of gas goes up or there are additional costs incurred to provide their service. A discussion followed with concerns about WM’s ability to continually increase rates. They will reach their first anniversary of their two year contract on August 1st. Gas prices and tipping fees have increased for WM, necessitating their rate increase. A motion to approve the proposed rate increases (noted below) was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley. Discussion followed about the August 1st implementation of the increase for citizens and businesses. The Council would prefer for the increase to go into effect on September 1st. The original motion was withdrawn, and a new one entered by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the proposed rate increases as of September 1, 2022. A 5-0 vote in favor was taken.

Residential-96 gallon container from \$19 to **\$21** monthly (**\$10** for each additional container)

Commercial-96 gallon container from \$42 to **\$44** monthly

Roll Off-\$210 per haul plus **\$79.60** per ton when emptied. \$90/month rental.

Current Commercial Pricing

	1x/week	2x/week	3x/week	Extra pickup
2-yard	\$68.40	\$91.20	\$136.64	\$42.00
4-yard	\$115.20	\$182.20	\$273.29	\$84.00
6-yard	\$159.60	\$273.29	\$409.66	\$126.00
8-yard	\$193.20	\$364.39	\$546.58	\$156.00

Commercial Pricing as of September 1, 2022

	1x/week	2x/week	3x/week	Extra Pickup
2-yard	\$69.60	\$92.40	\$137.84	\$43.20
4-yard	\$117.60	\$184.60	\$275.69	\$86.40
6-yard	\$163.20	\$276.89	\$413.26	\$129.60
8-yard	\$198.00	\$369.19	\$551.38	\$160.80

c. Chamber Request for Downtown Dining To-Go-Cup Policy on 7/19/2022:

The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Christmas in July Sip-n-Shop event downtown on July 19th. This will be followed by a free movie in the Knox Shopping Center. The Chamber is requesting activation of the Downtown Dining To-Go Cup policy for the 19th and to close access to the Knox Shopping Center at Main Street and Greenway Street from 7:30 until 10:30pm. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton to approve the requests and was seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A vote of 4-0 in favor was taken. Councilmember Smalley abstained. CA Waller spoke on the idea to make the Dining District’s To-Go Cup Policy permanent. In doing so, the Council would not have to vote on its implementation for each event. Mayor Usry instructed City Attorney Plunkett to craft a revision of Ordinance 580 to bring before the Council.

- d. Fire Hydrant Ordinance-First Reading: Current City Ordinance 546 concerning fire hydrants does not address the distance between hydrants. As the Fire Departments are now consolidated, it would be in their best interest to have the same ordinance requirements in the City and County. This would mandate that not more than 800 feet separate hydrants for residential use and not more than 500 feet for industrial and commercial use. No action is required.
- e. Land Bank Authority appointment: City appointee Kathy Hawkins recently passed away, and a new appointment needs to be made. Mayor Usry explained that she was a realtor and Marion Culpepper, a retired realtor, has agreed to fulfil her term on the Land Bank Authority. A motion made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Corley to approve the appointment was passed with a 5-0 vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report: Councilmember Corley expressed how good she thought the City Fun Day was for the employees. Councilmember Whittle commended the City employees for their work during yesterday's torrential rain. They were out blocking off flooded roadways, directing traffic and filling in where ever needed.

City Administrator Report: CA Waller spoke on the amount of rain received. The weather station closest to town registered 3.33" of rain in a very short time. The National Weather Service is labeling it a Twenty-five to Fifty Year Rain Event. Any storm water system would struggle to handle that amount of rainwater. Ditches are still being checked for debris and clearing. He reported that the City has made it through the first round of cuts in our application for \$900,000 to address the storm water challenges on First Avenue. This is through Senator Jon Ossoff's office. The \$10,500,000 that the City applied for through Senator Raphael Warnock's office has also made it through the first round. Budgets from the City's departments are being worked on and expected to be solidified in November. Other discussion concerning the delay of roadwork at the Brickyard due to utilities not being moved on time and bad weather, rounded out the report.

Mayor Report: Mayor Usry brought everyone up to date on upcoming events. There may be a called meeting on August 1st at 5:00pm, and the mayor asked everyone to block out that time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

Having no other business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 6:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

