

CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 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

Also Present:

Chief Courtney Gale, TPD
Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress
13 City Employees and Citizens

Not Present:

Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

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

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Several City employees were recognized for their contributions to the City. These contributions could be in the form of volunteering during their off hours, going beyond job requirements to help a citizen or even citizens contacting City Hall to specifically thank an employee. The employees recognized were:

Ron "Julio" Nickles
Stewart Pursley
Austin Reynolds
Benji Sturkey
Sgt. Steven Sanford
Sgt. Investigator Chris Mullis
Police Department Office Manager Terrie Bly
Municipal Court Clerk Kay Chalker
and Jerry Heard who did not receive his award in February.

CITIZEN INPUT:

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, August 11, 2022. A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the minutes with no corrections. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.
- b. Called Council Meeting, August 31, 2022. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the minutes as written. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

BUSINESS:

- a. Financial Audit: Lee Hammond of Barmore and Hammond, LLC spoke to the Council on the 2021 City Financial Audit. He reported that all funds received a Clean Opinion, all reports were accepted by the State of Georgia and the City is in a strong financial position as of December, 2021. Mayor Usry thanked him for his report. No action needs to be taken.
- b. Resolution 09-2022 Extension of GEFA Loan DW2017007:
- c. Resolution 10-2022 Extension of GEFA Loan DW2017008:
- d. Resolution 11-2022 Extension of GEFA Loan CW2020015: Resolutions 09-2022, 10-2022 and 11-2022 were considered under one vote. CA Waller explained that the three loans from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority have all been given time extensions as the projects' construction is not yet finished. Payments for each will be deferred until the first day of the month after whichever event comes first: 1) the construction is completed or, 2) the loan is fully disbursed or, 3) the passage of September 1, 2023 for Loan DW2017007 and May 1, 2025 for Loans DW2017008 and CW2020015. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve all three loan term extensions. A vote taken, passed the motion 5-0.
- e. Resolution 12-2022 Airport/GDOT Engineering Agreement: This will give Mayor Usry the authority to sign the Georgia Department of Transportation Engineering Agreement for Project AP023-9052-25(189). A motion made by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the authorization was passed with a 5-0 vote.
- f. Lewis and Clark Circus Request to Close Railroad Street: The circus will hold performances between Railroad Street and the railroad tracks at 5:00pm and 7:30pm on both September 15th and 16th. They are requesting that Railroad Street, from Greenway to O'Neal Streets, be closed each day from 4:00pm to 10:00pm; that they have access to electricity and a water source. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve all requests. A vote in favor passed the motion 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report:

None.

City Administrator Report: CA Waller informed the Council that the City had discovered some new water meters were installed incorrectly that caused high water bills for a few residents. The meters have been corrected as well as the billing for those affected. The parking lines on Railroad Street were restriped Wednesday morning (September 7th) and Springfield Street will be closed for a pipe installation by Reeves Construction most of September 9th. The last ARPA request will be submitted on the 9th, also.

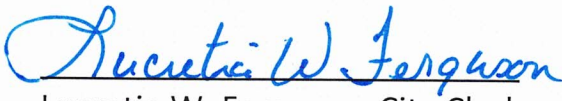
Mayor Report: Mayor Usry reminded the Council of the upcoming District 7 meeting on September 14th at 11:30am, the Blind Willie kickoff concert on Railroad Street at 7:00pm on the 23rd and the Blind Willie Music Festival on September 24th. The festival gates will open at 11:00am.


EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

Having no other business, a motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Corley. A vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 6:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

