

CITY OF THOMSON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 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  
Lucretia Ferguson, City Clerk  
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Chief Courtney Gale, TPD  
Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress

Not Present:

John Waller, City Administrator

At 6:00pm, Mayor Kenneth Usry announced that the Public Hearing concerning a Planning and Zoning recommendation had been cancelled at the request of the property owner. He then 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:**

Mrs. Georgia Hobbs spoke on the amount of excessive speeding on Old Washington Road. Her home is very close to the road and vehicles are not only loud but dangerous. General discussion with Mrs. Hobbs assured her that the City Police would step up patrols and request the Sheriff's Office to assist also. Chief Gale will also look at putting up the speed monitor.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Belton to amend the agenda by removing the Planning and Zoning recommendation and approving the agenda. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. Council Meeting, September 8, 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. Planning and Zoning Recommendation re: Kingstown Estates Rezoning Request: Removed by amendment of agenda.
- b. Alcohol Application for Pigg-Ah-Boo's Southern Flava and BBQ 654 Main St. Ste 1: Mayor Usry informed the Council that the business has met all requirements to obtain an alcohol license. A motion to approve the license was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A 4-0 vote in favor was taken, as Councilmember Smalley abstained.
- c. Trunk-or-Treat Railroad Street Closing Request: Community Development Officer Jason Smith explained that the Thomson-McDuffie Recreation Department is moving their Trunk-or-Treat to downtown this year instead of their usual venue at Sweetwater Park. The event is from 4:00pm – 7:00pm and followed by the movie, Spiderman-No Way Home on the Government Complex front lawn at 7:00pm. He asked that Railroad Street from Main Street to Hogie Joe's crosswalk be closed from 1:00pm until 10:00pm, and that trash receptacles be made available for the event. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle to approve the requests and was seconded by Councilmember Belton. A vote of 5-0 approved the motion.
- d. Local Sales and Use Tax (LOST): The new distribution of LOST funds, as agreed to by the three government entities, is:  
32.00%      City of Thomson  
01.25%      City of Dearing  
66.75%      County of McDuffie  
A motion was made by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the distribution of the proceeds of the tax. A vote taken, passed the motion 5-0.
- e. City Financial Auditor: Eight accounting firms were invited to bid on becoming the City's Financial Auditor. Only two firms made proposals, Mauldin & Jenkins (M&J) of Macon and Barmore Hammond (BH) of Thomson. For the City's two audits, M&J proposed \$41,000 for approximately ½ of the total hours that BH proposed at \$63,790. However, M&J has a substantially higher hourly rate than BH that would be paid for anything over the quote. Financial Director Tammy Haire and City Administrator Waller recommend that the City retain Barmore Hammond as our Financial Auditor. A motion made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve the recommendation was passed with a 5-0 vote.
- f. Resolution 13-2022: City of Ethics: Thomson is a Certified City of Ethics as approved by the Georgia Municipal Association Board of Directors. Application must be made every four years for recertification and this resolution, when approved, will be signed as a pledge by all City Elected Officials to subscribe to the following principles:
  - ❖ Serve Others, Not Ourselves
  - ❖ Use Resources with Efficiency and Economy
  - ❖ Treat All People Fairly
  - ❖ Use the Power of Our Position for the Well Being of our Constituents
  - ❖ Create an Environment of Honesty, Openness and Integrity



A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve the resolution. A 5-0 vote approved the motion.

Mayor Usry called on Mr. Andre Ferbee who arrived after the meeting started and asked if he came to address the Council. Mr. Ferbee, the owner of Pigg-Ah-Boo's, thanked the Council for approving his alcohol application and expressed how much he enjoys being a part of the Thomson community.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Council Report:** Councilmember Smalley asked that Code Enforcement investigate the large pile of belongings in front of 208 Cobb Street. Mayor Usry assured him that it would be attended to.

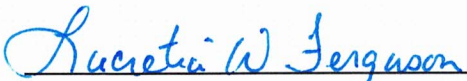
**City Administrator Report:** CA Waller was out of town attending a conference.

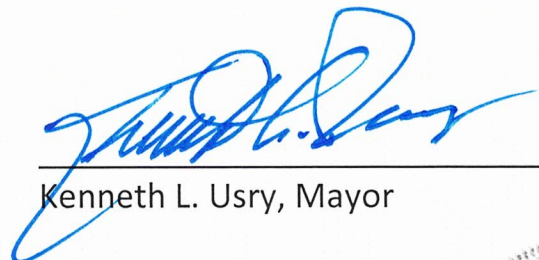
**Mayor Report:** Mayor Usry covered the coming events: Trash Amnesty Day, Camellia City Festival, McDuffie County Mixer and Trunk-or-Treat. He reminded the Council to review the Purchasing and Fats, Oils and Grease Policies before the next Work Session on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

A motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Corley. A vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 6:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk

  
Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

