



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2022

6:00PM

Thomson-McDuffie Government Center

Present:

Kenneth Usry, Mayor
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
Ayla Gardler
Julie Klare
Erica Dawson
Preston Breece
Bea Hart-Moss

Not Present:

Alton Belton, Councilmember

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:

The first of three speakers, Erica Dawson, spoke on the recent shooting of her son, on Forrest Clary Drive, who was out for a run. She felt the case was improperly handled and called for more police presence in the area. Mayor Usry and Chief Gale, who had already spoken with Mrs. Dawson, assured her they would look further into the failure in communication concerning the crime and see that she is not overlooked. Ayla Gardler addressed the Council next about her court citation in regard to her keeping chickens in the city limits. Her plan is to bring about a change in the City ordinance for poultry to be allowed in the City. Julie Klare, the third speaker, also asked that the City ordinances concerning livestock/chickens be more clearly defined and changed so that chickens are allowed in the City.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the agenda as written. A vote of 4-0 in favor was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, November 10, 2022.
- b. Public Hearing – FY 2023 Budget, November 17, 2022. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Corley to

approve the November 10th and 17th minutes. A vote of 4-0 in favor was taken.

- c. Called Council Meeting, November 30, 2022. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the minutes as written. A vote of 4-0 in favor was taken.

BUSINESS:

- a. First Reading of Ordinance: Purchasing Policy: No action needed.
- b. First Reading of Ordinance: Fats, Oils and Grease Policy: No action needed.
- c. Resolution 14-2022: Fiscal Year 2023 Budget: CA Waller presented the five major funds that we track which does not include Airport, Police Condemnation or TSPLOST Funds. The proposed budget is \$24,037,291.

GENERAL FUND	\$5,065,721
WATER & SEWER FUND	\$6,294,185
GAS FUND	\$10,672,233
SOLID WASTE FUND	\$1,703,900
MAINTENANCE FUND	\$301,252

AIRPORT BUDGET	\$136,600
POLICE CONDEMNATION BUDGET	\$5,000
TSPLOST BUDGET	\$200,000

A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the Budget Resolution. A vote of 4-0 passed the motion.

- d. Land Bank Authority Appointment: Stephen Smith: The Land Bank Authority has one vacant position which is a joint City/County appointment. Stephen Smith has agreed to accept the post. With the County having already given their approval, a motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley to approve Mr. Smith’s appointment to the Land Bank Authority. A vote taken, passed the motion 4-0.
- e. 2023 Council Meeting and City Holiday Schedules: As Council meetings are set by ordinance, only the holiday schedule needs to be approved and voted on by the Council. Mayor Usry explained that the County had approved the same schedule in their meeting earlier this week. A motion made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the City holidays was passed with a 4-0 vote.
- f. Year-End Budget Amendments: CA Waller presented the year-end Budget Amendments. No action was needed.
- g. Resolution 15-2022: CDBG 2021 Award and Authorization: A Resolution is needed to award the Sole Source Procurement bid, as approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, to Beam Site Prep LLC and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Johnson. A vote of 4-0 passed the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report: Councilmember Keryl Corley has heard from several citizens concerned about the extremely rough pavement at Hendricks and Grady Streets. With constant traffic at the intersection, the potholes are difficult to miss. Mayor

Usry noted that the Street Department will assess the area again, as it has been repaired many times. Councilmember Johnson took this time to tell Citizen Input speaker Erica Dawson that she lives in the same neighborhood and was sorry that her son was hit with gunfire. Councilmember Johnson assured her that the police are circling the area, but you have to be careful. Chief Gale added her apology on the situation also.

City Administrator Report: Nothing to report.

Mayor Report: Mayor Usry thanked all that came out for the Christmas Tree lighting. He commended Norris Elementary and Thomson High School for their contributions to the night's entertainment. Combined with the introduction of the snow making machines and other events, the well attended evening was a success. After bringing the Council up to date about coming events in the City, the Mayor reminded all officials that the business discussed during an Executive Session is confidential and not to be repeated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

Having no other business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley. A vote of 4-0 ended the meeting at 6:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

