



CITY OF THOMSON
PUBLIC HEARING AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2023

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
Chase Beggs, Planning & Zoning Dir.
3 Interested Citizens
Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress

Not Present:

John Waller, City Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:00pm, Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Public Hearing concerning the Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation on a rezoning request. Planning and Zoning Director Beggs presented the recommendation.

611 Cedar Rock Road: The current owner asked for a 0.41-acre portion of the property to be rezoned as City R-1A from County R-2, as the 0.41-acre parcel is being annexed into the City. The Planning Board recommended that the rezoning be granted in a 6-0 vote.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

There being no questions, comments, or other concerns, Mayor Usry closed the public meeting at 6:01pm.

COUNCIL MEETING

At 6:01pm, Mayor Usry called the regularly scheduled City Council meeting to order and gave the invocation. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

CITIZEN COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

City Council Meeting: January 12, 2023 — A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the minutes. A vote of 5-0 was taken to approve them.

BUSINESS:

- a. Recommendation of Planning & Zoning, re: Rezoning of a 0.41-acre parcel at 611 Hickory Hill Drive: A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Whittle that the Council accept the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board to rezone the 0.41-acre parcel to City R-1A from County R-2. By a vote of 5-0, the motion was approved.

- b. Ordinance 584: Annexation of 0.41-acre parcel at 611 Hickory Hill Drive – Second Reading: A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Corley to approve the Ordinance. A vote of 5-0 in favor of the motion was cast.
- c. Façade Grant Request: 111 Journal Street: A \$10,000 Façade Grant was requested by Andrew Knox for the renovation of the historic Fire Department - City Jail into four apartments. The City has the funds available and Mr. Knox has met all requirements. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Corley to approve the grant. A vote of 5-0 passed the motion.
- d. 2022 Final Budget Amendments: The year-end Budget Amendments were presented by Mayor Usry. A motion to approve the amendments as written was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley. A 5-0 vote in favor was taken.
- e. Notice of City of Ethics Recertification: Mayor Usry explained that the City has been, once again, certified as a City of Ethics by the Georgia Municipal Association.
- f. Elections: Mayor Usry brought to the Council the request that the six City elected officials have staggered terms instead of all six positions being voted on in the same election. Councilmembers Smalley and Corley, and Mayor Usry, agreed to seek re-election for a two-year term instead of a four-year term in the November 3, 2023 election. Those three positions would be on a ballot for a four-year term in 2025, and every four years thereafter. As this requires a change to the City Charter, our representatives at the State level will have to introduce legislation to effect this change by July 1, 2023. A motion by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Smalley was made for three named City of Thomson elected officials to run for a two-year term in 2023, serving from 2024-2025, then the same three district posts run for a four-year term starting in 2025, serving from 2026-2029. A vote taken, passed the motion 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Council Report: Councilmember Johnson spoke on a sink hole on Holt Street at Bethel Baptist Church, and a water run-off problem behind Big Lots. Councilmember Smalley brought up a water problem causing erosion at Dean's Avenue and West Street.

City Administrator Report: CA Waller was attending a GCCMA meeting.

Mayor Report: None

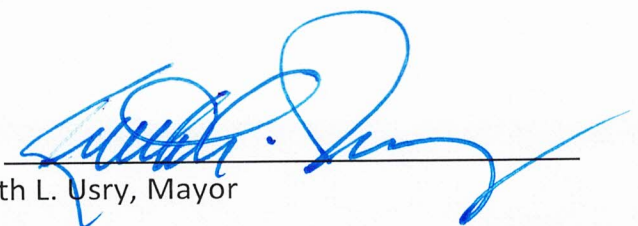
EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

There being no other business before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk



Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

