



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 13, 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
John Waller, City Administrator
Lucretia Ferguson, City Clerk
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Assistant Chief Robert Brown, TPD
Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress
5 Interested Citizens

At 6:00pm, Mayor 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.

CITIZEN INPUT: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Meeting, June 8, 2023. A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the minutes, followed by a vote of 5-0 in favor.

BUSINESS:

Waste Management Contract: **Residential Service** was considered first. CA Waller has spoken with four vendors while Dearing Mayor Sean Kelley has spoken with four more in his search for a vendor for Dearing. The prices submitted by Waste Management (WM) are the lowest of all contacted companies. WM has agreed, if this new contract is approved, to not raise rates for twelve months followed by a possible adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index for months thirteen through twenty-four. The CPI adjustment was in their previous contract and they chose not to raise their rates. The new contract does not constrict WM to only using the McDuffie County Landfill which would have added \$2.50 to each residential customer's bill. A formal Request for Proposal will be issued six months before the end of the WM contract to have WM and other companies bid for our next trash removal contract. CA Waller asked for Council's consideration of two price tiers.

- A 96-gallon can is currently \$21.00 and an additional can is \$10.00.

- The City would break even on the new contract if charging \$26.47 and \$15.00 (for an additional can).
- A small amount of revenue can be earned for the Solid Waste Department if the City charges \$28.00 and \$15.00.

To break even will not help the Solid Waste Department shortfall to pay for the many tasks performed by this department. A monthly charge of \$28.00 and \$15.00 for an additional can will only generate \$41,000 to help with the shortfall. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley to approve the Waste Management Residential contract and charge the \$28.00 and \$15.00 option. Councilmembers discussed concerns and encouragement, and an eventual call for a vote resulted in 5-0 in favor. It was noted that a media blitz along with an informational flyer will go out in the August billing, the new rates would take affect in the September bills to paid the beginning of October.

The next subject centered on the **Commercial Service** in the new contract. A 96-gallon container was \$44.00 and would rise to \$56.32 monthly. The presented dumpster pricing is below.

For City to Break Even

	1x/week	2x/week	3x/week	Extra Pickup
2 yard	\$80.17	\$113.55	\$169.58	\$43.20
4 yard	\$138.75	\$226.89	\$339.13	\$86.40
6 yard	\$194.81	\$340.33	\$508.65	\$129.60
8 yard	\$240.29	\$453.77	\$678.26	\$160.80

For City to Earn Revenue

	1x/week	2x/week	3x/week	Extra Pickup
2 yard	\$88.77	\$118.55	\$176.58	\$55.30
4 yard	\$150.27	\$235.89	\$353.13	\$110.59
6 yard	\$208.81	\$354.33	\$527.65	\$165.89
8 yard	\$253.29	\$470.77	\$703.26	\$205.82

The second table would net the City approximately \$141,000 to partially off-set the Solid Waste Department shortfall. The shortfall is \$283,000 and the total proposed "Earn Revenue" options would total around \$182,000. Councilmember Johnson made the motion to approve the "Earn Revenue" commercial rates as presented and was seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A call for vote approved the motion, 5-0.

2023 Mid-Year Budget Amendments: The amendments were presented to the Council previously. A motion to approve the Mid-Year Budget amendments as presented was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A 5-0 vote in favor was taken.

Planning and Zoning Board Appointment: Clifford (Bud) Lunceford: Mr. Lunceford has agreed to fulfill the term, ending 12/31/2025, of Howell Roberts who resigned in March of this year. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to approve the appointment and was seconded by Councilmember Corley. A vote of 5-0 filled the seat on the board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report: Councilmember Corley reminded everyone that the Gas Department is still in the midst of automated calls with a short survey and asked all to please participate. Councilmember Whittle commended all of the City workers who are out in the heat doing their jobs so well.

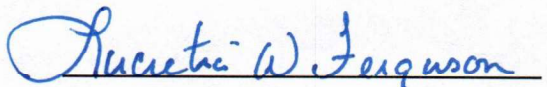
City Administrator Report: City Administrator Waller spoke of the two new potential hires in the Street Department. They are both undergoing background checks and should be onboard soon. The Thomson Police Department is developing a new officer designation of Corporal which will fall just below Sergeant. A Corporal will have more responsibility in the department and a small bump in pay if it is approved. The Thomson-McDuffie County Airport's Instrument Landing System (ILS) will no longer be supported by the Federal Government. It would be a large undertaking to maintain the clearance required and now we must decide if having the ILS will be a benefit or not. The Georgia Department of Transportation expects the Augusta Road/Sweetwater Bridge to be open by the start of the school year which is August 3rd. Bids for the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades were opened today and the lowest bid came in at \$12,400,000. Our budget is \$8,300,000 so Carter and Sloope will work to adjust the portions of the RFP that are not immediately necessary. In doing this, they hope to bring the lowest bidding contractor within our budget. The next Requests for Proposal to be let will be on the Augusta Road Water Treatment Plant and the Usry Pond Raw Water Pump Station. The Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) bid came in lower than expected. The total area to pave is 1.2 miles and is part of ten streets in the City. The bid came in lower than expected at \$266,000. The City and County combined their paving needs in the bid package in hopes of receiving a better price.

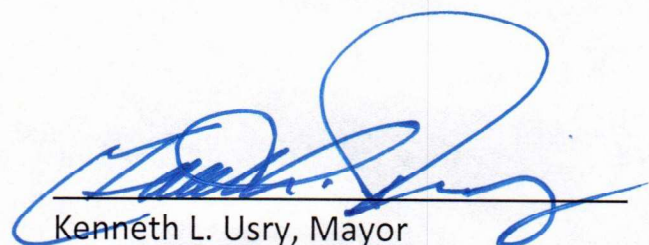
Mayor Report: Mayor Usry covered upcoming events. He also explained that the City has two lots on Clements Street. An owner has made an offer for the City to buy their derelict property. The Mayor would like to take it on, tear down the structures and turn them over to the Land Bank for marketing. The plan is to get more home ownership in that area instead of rental property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

A motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Belton. A vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

