



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2021

6:30PM

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, Interim City Admin.
Lucretia Ferguson, City Clerk
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Acting Chief E J Bess, TPD
Nora Douglas

At 6:30pm, Mayor Kenneth Usry called the regularly scheduled City Council meeting to order and Councilmember John Smalley gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The motion was made by Councilmember Alton Belton and seconded by Councilmember Scott Whittle to add (e.) Resolution 06-2021 appointing voting delegates to the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia, and to approve the remainder of the agenda as written. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, 2/11/2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Elaine Johnson and seconded by Councilmember John Smalley to approve the minutes. A vote of 5-0 was taken to approve them.
- b. Called Council Meeting, 2/24/2021. A motion was made by Councilmember John Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Keryl Corley to approve the minutes as written. A vote of 5-0 was taken in favor of the motion.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Nora Douglas joined the meeting and brought to the attention of the Mayor and Council, the flooding on Lincoln Drive due to a bad drain pipe located at 827 Mobley Street. Mayor Usry assured her that the City would look into it.

BUSINESS:

- a. RESOLUTION 04-2021 The council approved a lease/purchase agreement of \$194,440 for thirty-six months to buy four police vehicles at the February 11th meeting. The bank has since sent paperwork that includes a resolution for Mayor Usry to be appointed to execute the documents. This resolution would provide for that stipulation. A motion was made by Councilmember

John Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Keryl Corley to approve the resolution, and the 5-0 vote was in favor.

- b. RESOLUTION 05-2021 This resolution would allow the sale of Economically Unreparable Equipment currently owned by the City. The list of equipment is at twenty-one, but will likely change before the sale date. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilmember Elaine Johnson and seconded by Councilmember John Smalley. A 5-0 vote passed the motion.
- c. THOMSON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTMENT The City needs to fill a position on the board and Bud Lunceford has agreed to fill the five year term. A motion was made by Councilmember Alton Belton to approve the appointment and was seconded by Councilmember Elaine Johnson. A vote of 5-0 filled the seat on the board.
- d. RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD The Thomson-McDuffie County Recreation and Leisure Services Advisory Board has two City positions to fill. Jaye Jones has moved out of the city and has asked to be replaced. T.R. Ferguson, the current Chairman, has reached the end of his term. The Council members will bring recommendations to their April meeting for Mr. Jones seat, but a motion was made by Councilmember Alton Belton and seconded by Councilmember Scott Whittle to reappoint Mr. Ferguson to another four year term. A vote was taken that passed the motion 5-0.
- e. RESOLUTION 06-2021 is to appoint a voting delegate, Mayor Usry, and an alternate, Gas Department Director Rodney Dunaway, to the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia's Election Committee. This would give authority to cast all votes for which the City is entitled. A motion made by Councilmember Alton Belton and seconded by Councilmember Scott Whittle to approve the recommendations was passed with a 5-0 vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council: Councilmember Keryl Corley made sure that the Council was aware that March 18th will be Natural Gas Utility Worker's Day. There are already plans for recognition in the McDuffie Progress and on the City's Facebook page. She also brought the dissatisfaction of citizens in the Hickory Hill area with drones hovering over their houses. Councilmember Alton Belton agreed, with drones being a nuisance in his neighborhood also. City Attorney Jimmy Plunkett will explore the need of an Ordinance to help control their use.

Attorney Plunkett presented a check for \$7,500 to pay off a FiFa placed against Mary Jones Lucik when a nuisance property at 420 Anderson Avenue was cleaned up by the City.

City Administrator: ICA Waller informed the Council that the City has received 11 applications for the open Police Chief position. March 15th is the last day we will accept those. The Solid Waste Request for Proposals has been posted on both the Georgia Procurement site and the City/County website. CA Waller has had three companies to show interest in the contract, and one is coming to take a tour. The last day for submitting proposals is April 23rd. The County has hired a Code Enforcement Officer. It is possible that he may be a joint hire of the City and County. A trial period will be set. If it doesn't work out, the City will actively pursue candidates for a City Code Enforcement Officer. The Water and Sewer Distribution Department has \$86,000 in their budget for two new trucks. They have found two for under \$85,000. An order will be placed and we should receive the trucks in ten to twelve weeks. Mayor Usry added that as they are a fully budgeted item and being bought through the Georgia State Contracts, no vote is necessary. On the issue of the Airport engineer, the five year contract is coming to an end with W.K. Dickson Engineering. David Crawley, Don Powers and ICA Waller

have vetted the top three firms. Goldwyn, Mills, Cawood Inc.(GMC) of Montgomery, AL has been recommended to the Council as our new Airport Engineer. If approved by the Council, GMC's Augusta, GA office would be working with the City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Scott Whittle and seconded by Councilmember John Smalley to hire GMC as the Airport Engineering Firm for a contract length of five years. The motion was approved 5-0. In good news, the Federal COVID Relief Bill promises a little over \$2,000,000 to the City over the next two years. The Archway Community Imaging and Communication Group needs Council input and assistance, as does the coming 150th Anniversary of McDuffie County's founding. ICA Waller encouraged all to volunteer and help out with these groups.

Mayor: The Mayor thanked ICA Waller for bringing the Council up to date and then spoke with visitor Nora Douglas at this time as is evidenced in the Citizen Comment section.

Having no other public business, the motion was made at 7:01pm by Councilmember John Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Alton Belton to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Real Estate acquisition discussion and Personnel. A 5-0 vote passed the motion.

Executive Session:

Real Estate
Personnel

At the end of the Executive Session, a motion was made by Councilmember Scott Whittle and seconded by Councilmember John Smalley to return to regular session at 7:38pm.

A motion to approve Interim City Administrator John Waller as City Administrator was made by Councilmember Elaine Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Scott Whittle. A 5-0 vote passed the motion.

A motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Elaine Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Alton Belton. A vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

