



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 8, 2021

6:30PM

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:

Acting Chief E J Bess, TPD
George Pinkston
Nora Douglas
Susan Benning-Tutt
Dorothy L. Alexander
Elizabeth Brown

Not Present:

Alton Belton, Councilmember

At 6:30pm, Mayor 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 COMMENT:

George Pinkston had signed in to speak. Mayor Usry asked that the minutes reflect that he and Mr. Pinkston discussed his ongoing water issue before the meeting and the Mayor assured him that the City Administrator was doing all he could to help resolve the problem. Mr. Pinkston was pleased with the conversation and decided not to address the Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, 6/10/2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the minutes. A vote of 4-0 was taken to approve them.
- b. Called Council Meeting, 6/17/2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the minutes as written. A vote of 4-0 was taken in favor of the motion.

BUSINESS:

- a. ORDINANCE #579-Establishing a Street Light District for Oak Grove Subdivision-First Reading CA Waller explained that this would pay for the Georgia Power electricity to power the street lights for the thirty-eight lots in the subdivision. As the nine poles and lights have been provided, only the

estimated cost of the electricity, \$5.00 per month per lot, will be added to each yearly tax bill. Any unsold houses' or lots' billing will be paid by the developer, Mark Herbert. The second reading will be on August 12, 2021.

- b. ORDINANCE #577-Meeting Time Change to 6:00pm-Second Reading Mayor Usry explained that this ordinance permanently changes the meeting time from 6:30pm to 6:00pm for the regularly scheduled Council meeting on the second Thursday of every month. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A 4-0 vote passed the motion.

- c. RECOMMENDATION of CIVIL DESIGN SOLUTIONS for AWARD of CDBG GRANT: WATER, SEWER and SELECT HOME IMPROVEMENTS on WALNUT STREET-Two companies submitted bids on June 25, 2021 for the work on Walnut Street.

Contract Management Inc \$1,669,145.31

Beam Site Prep, LLC \$ 548,467.50

Contract Management made an error in their base bid, and taking that into account, they would still not be the lowest bidder. This error did not affect the lowest qualified bidder or CDS's recommendation of award. CDS recommends the contract be awarded to Beam Site Prep for the amount of their base bid. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Councilmember Whittle.

Councilmember Corley questioned how the bids could be so far apart, and Councilmember Johnson asked when the improvements would start. CA Waller stated that apparently Contract Management Inc often submits high bids and Beam Site Prep, LLC, having done this kind of work for the City in the past knows the details of the job more intimately so their bids would likely be more accurate. Work for this project will commence 30 days after the Pre-Construction meeting in August. The vote of approval was 4-0.

- d. RESOLUTION #08-2021- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA)-The Thomson-McDuffie Regional Airport received a second award from the 2020 Federal CARES Act for \$23,000. This resolution allows the City to accept the award for the airport. A motion was made by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the resolution. A vote was taken and passed the motion 4-0. CA Waller brought up that there will be a similar resolution placed before the Council in six to eight months for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) award.

- e. RESOLUTION #09-2021-GDOT Standard Utility Agreement re: Sweetwater Creek Bridge Water Line-P.I. 0013925- A County project is replacing the Sweetwater Bridge on the Augusta Highway. The City has a 10-inch water main under the bridge that must be moved. GDOT has agreed to fund \$89,979.00 of the \$179,958.00 estimated cost. The City is responsible for the other \$89,979.00. This resolution allows the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the GDOT/City agreement that the City will pay its share. A motion made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the resolution was passed with a 4-0 vote. Mayor Usry advised all that the Augusta Highway would be closed for the project. George McDuffie Road and Wire Road will be the closest detours to go around the construction.

- f. BORDERS STREET CLOSURE REQUEST-This request will be tabled until the First Baptist Church can devise a plan for the closure.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council: None.

City Administrator: CA Waller informed the Council that August 2nd has been set as Waste Management's first day to collect garbage in the City. A second flyer will be mailed to all City garbage customers about the transition before August 2nd. The main takeaways are that all cans should be on the curb the night before your scheduled pickup, or at the latest, by 6:00am. All customer pickup days will remain the same but the time of pickup likely will change. Waste Management will run all routes by picking up one side of a street and continuing on with more streets before coming back to pick up the other side. This will require some adjustment of expectations by the customers.

Mayor: Our City Christmas tree needs to be raised four feet. We purchased it in 2018 from Universal Concepts. Universal Concepts has quoted a discounted price of \$3750 for the matching rings to raise it and \$925 to replicate the decorations. Mayor Usry asked for approval to make the purchase. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley to purchase the additional four feet and decorations for the quoted price. A vote of 4-0 approved the motion.

The mayor also mentioned that the Augusta Chronicle had a Sunday front page, very positive article on Courtney Gale, our incoming Police Chief. He encouraged everyone to read it.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Corley to adjourn. A 4-0 vote passing the motion ended the meeting at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

