



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

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:

Chief Courtney Gale, TPD
Wayne Parham, McDuffie Progress
Nora Douglas
Elizabeth Brown

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:

No one signed in to speak.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, August 12, 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the minutes. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.
- b. Called Council Meeting, September 9, 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Corley to approve the minutes as written. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken. Councilmember Belton was not present at the September 9th meeting but wished to go on record as agreeing with the setting of the City's millage rate at 6.890.

BUSINESS:

- a. Date Correction: The Activities Council, on August 12th, was approved for a One Day Alcohol License and for Railroad Street to be closed for a free public concert for September 25, 2021. This date is incorrect and should be September 24, 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve both actions for September 24, 2021. A vote of 4-0 was taken in favor, with Councilmember Smalley abstaining.
- b. Downtown Development Authority Appointee: Ken Sweet, owner of Highrail Southern Eatery on Main Street, should have been a part of the list of DDA members that was approved by the Council on August 12th. A

motion to add Mr. Sweet as a member of the DDA was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A 5-0 vote in favor was taken.

- c. Resolution 10-2021: Modification of GEFA Loan DW2017007: As part of the modification of the loan, the Resolution states that the Council approves of the additional \$500,000 and appoints Mayor Usry and CA Waller to execute the loan documents. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton to approve the Resolution and was seconded by Councilmember Corley. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

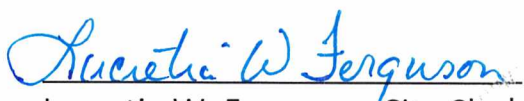
Council: Councilmember Whittle called attention to the Main Street crosswalk signs in bad condition, Councilmember Belton asked if the front parking lot of the Government Center could be cleaned up now that the street sweeper is back in operation and Councilmember Corley spoke on the Post Office sliding back in to the bad condition it suffered during the Spring. All were assured that each of their concerns would or already were being attended to.

City Administrator: CA Waller informed the Council that the County Commission has voted to approve the Fire Fee, the City had a clean yearly financial audit, all budget interviews with Department Heads have been completed with the budget starting to take shape in the next thirty days, and CSX Railroad had contacted him to alert the City that there will be crossing closures coming up while railroad ties are being replaced. CSX could not provide specific dates. A "work in progress" Vendor/Peddler license was distributed for the Council to see. The final document is not ready yet. He spoke on the Job Fair that City Human Resources is holding Monday, September 13th, at the Depot. The hope is to find some good employees to help fill our twenty vacant positions. A Community Development Block Grant pre-construction meeting was held at 9:00am this morning to sign the contract with Beam Site Prep who was awarded the bid for infrastructure improvements for water, sewer and storm water on Walnut Street. This will begin no later than December 1, 2021 and will be completed in 180 days from the start date. The CDBG Grant for homes will start in the next thirty days for up to six houses that have been approved for that grant. Lastly, local WWII veteran Louis Graziano will receive the French Legion of Honor on Friday, September 17th at 1:00pm as he is the last surviving witness to the meeting and document signing that ended World War II.

Mayor: The Mayor thanked CA Waller for bringing everyone up to date on so many things happening in Thomson and then spoke of the dinner the night before in honor of the twentieth anniversary of 9/11 and our First Responders that he, Chief Gale and three TPD officers attended. Chief Gale had the chance to meet a large group of Fire Department, EMS and Sheriff's Department employees. He noted the annual dinner was very nice.

Having no other business, the motion was made at 6:15pm by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Belton to adjourn. A 5-0 vote in favor was taken.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor