



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021

6:00PM

Thomson-McDuffie Government Center

Present:

Kenneth Usry, Mayor
Alton Belton, Councilmember
Elaine Johnson, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Scott Whittle, Councilmember
John Waller, City Administrator
Lucretia Ferguson, City Clerk
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Attendees: 33

Not Present:

Keryl Corley, Councilmember

At 6:00pm, Mayor Kenneth Usry called the regularly scheduled City Council meeting to order. City Attorney Plunkett gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Mrs. Rosa Hunt signed in to speak, but withdrew her name. Mr. Paul Daly and Mr. John Reyburn combined their time to speak on the lack of sufficient internet service in Millbrook Subdivision.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Meeting, September 9, 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the minutes. A vote of 4-0 in favor was taken.

BUSINESS:

- a. Employee Recognition: Department Directors were asked to nominate an employee who best exemplified the attributes of a model City employee. Nine employees were presented with a certificate of achievement and an honorarium by CA Waller or their director. Each gave highlights of why that employee was chosen.

Streets—Chris Hampton

Solid Waste—Dexter Reese

Fleet maintenance—Stewart Pursley

Administration—Jerry Pitman

Finance—Heather Butts

Gas—Mitchell Hall

Meter Reader—Lee Dye
Water Production—Tom O’Grady
Police-Sgt. Robert Brown

Two employees could not be present and will receive their certificate and honorarium at a later date.

Wastewater Treatment—Hilary Crook
Water/Sewer Distribution—Mark Huff

- b. Thomson Police Department, Assistant Chief Robert Brown: TPD Chief Courtney Gale presented Sgt. Robert Brown to the Mayor, Council and attendees and spoke of his contributions to the City of Thomson and the police force. Sgt. Brown was the unanimous choice from among several applicants to be our next Assistant Chief of Police. His wife, Brenda Brown, then pinned his shield onto his uniform. Assistant Chief Brown was congratulated by all.
- c. Camellia City Festival One Day Alcohol License: The Thomson-McDuffie Chamber of Commerce applied for a one day alcohol license for the festival which will be held on October 23, 2021 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of McDuffie County. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve the license. A vote taken, passed the motion 3-0, with Councilmember Smalley abstaining due to religious reasons. This makes official what the Council had agreed to earlier.
- d. Camellia City Festival Street Closure Request: The Chamber also requested that Railroad Street from Greenway Street to O’Neal Street be closed for the festival from 7:00am-8:00pm on October 23, 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the request. The motion was passed with a 4-0 vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

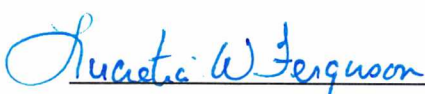
Council Report: Councilmember Smalley commended the Thomson Police Department for their handling of an automobile wreck at the busy intersection of Harrison Road and Main Street.

City Administrator Report: CA Waller reminded the Council that the City First Responders are eligible for up to a \$1000 bonus from the State, the Water and Sewer Commission meets on the 19th and Department of Community Affairs will be making award presentations on October 28th at the Depot.

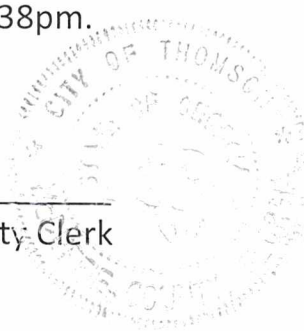
Mayor Report: Mayor Usry spoke on the District 7 meeting at the Depot today with an attendance of 65 officials along with our council members. He reminded everyone about the Camellia City Festival on the 23rd and the opportunities to volunteer, that “Trick-or-Treat” has been moved to Saturday, October 30th and to bypass houses with no porch lights. He then welcomed Assistant Chief Brown onboard in his new position and commended Chief Gale on how well things are progressing under her leadership even though all officer positions have not yet been filled.

Having no other business to address, a motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A vote of 4-0 ended the meeting at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor