



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2021

6:00PM

Thomson-McDuffie Government Center

Present:

Kenneth Usry, Mayor
Keryl Corley, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Scott Whittle, Councilmember
John Waller, City Administrator
Lucretia Ferguson, City Clerk

Also Present:

Chief Courtney Gale, TPD
Wayne Parham, McDuffie Progress
Elizabeth Brown
Nora Douglas
David Thigpen
Shanda Grant
Toni Hutchinson
Keenyn Phillips

Not Present:

Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Present by telephone:

Alton Belton, Councilmember
Elaine Johnson, Councilmember

At 6:00pm, Mayor Kenneth 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:

Employee David Thigpen who mans the Recycle Center that is closing January 30th spoke on behalf of the citizens that are upset and rely on the Recycle Center. He feels that with the majority of them being older, that they would not be able to drive to the landfill and take care of the recyclables by themselves. He also requested that the City move him to another position of the Center does close.

Keenyn Phillips presented the Council and Mayor with a petition signed by twelve households to request speed humps on Milledge Street. Citing the extreme speed of cars and trucks on the street, he also requested that the crossroads of Milledge and Church Streets become a four-way stop instead of a two-way stop. Mayor Usry told him that the Police Department would have to perform a speed study before a determination could be made. Mr. Phillips did note that some of the offenders are school buses. CA Waller said he would let the School Board know about that problem.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, November 11, 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.

BUSINESS:

- a. Year End Budget Amendments: Mayor Usry explained the six Year End Budget Amendments. These amendments are made to balance the accounts. They were presented as follows:

General Fund	\$119,834.00
Water Fund	\$ 64,000.00
Gas Fund	\$568.938.00
Solid Waste Fund	\$114,190.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 26,961.00
TSPLOST Fund	\$120,000.00

A motion was made by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the amendments as presented. A vote of 5-0 was taken in favor.

- b. 2022 Budgets: The coming year’s budget, totaling \$22,556,916.00, was presented for approval. A motion to approve that amount, with the condition of minor adjustments, if needed, was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A 5-0 vote in favor was taken.

Mayor Usry also discussed three additional budgets:

Airport Expenditures	\$ 96,600.00
Police Condemnation	\$ 5,000.00
TSPLOST Revenue	\$175,000.00

A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the three additional budgets. A 5-0 vote in favor, passed the motion.

- c. Thomson-McDuffie Planning Board Reappointment: Howell Roberts 2022-2025. Mr. Roberts has agreed to serve one more term on the Joint Planning Board. A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle to approve the appointment and was seconded by Councilmember Corley. A vote of 5-0 in favor of the motion reseated Mr. Roberts.
- d. Commercial Garbage Rates: The commercial rates for garbage will slightly increase as of January 1, 2022. The new front load container rates will be as follows:

	1x/week	2x/week	3x/week	Extra pickup
2 yard	\$57.00	\$75.91	\$113.87	\$35.00
4 yard	\$96.00	\$151.83	\$227.74	\$70.00
6 yard	\$133.00	\$227.74	\$341.38	\$105.00
8 yard	\$161.00	\$303.66	\$455.48	\$130.00

Roll Off pricing will increase to \$190.00 per haul, plus \$58 per ton when emptied. The monthly rental will increase to \$85.00. This is for information only.

- e. 2022 Council Meeting Dates: Mayor Usry presented the list of Work Sessions and Regular Council Meetings for 2022. All Regular Meetings are at 6:00pm on the second Thursday of each month and all Work Sessions are at 5:00pm on the preceding Monday, except for the September Work Session

which is moved to the day after Labor Day. A motion made by Councilmember Smalley to approve the schedule and seconded by Councilmember Whittle was passed with a 5-0 vote.

- f. 2022 City Holiday Schedule: Mayor Usry presented the proposed ten holidays for City employees. They are New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day (Thursday and Friday), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to approve the schedule and seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A vote of 5-0 was taken in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report: Councilmember Corley brought up the dissatisfaction of citizens in the Hickory Hill area with recent police coverage. Councilmember Smalley spoke on a recent traffic accident that was handled well by TPD.

City Administrator Report: CA Waller thanked everyone for their help during his time out of the office. He noted that with the New Year and pay increases built into the 2022 budget that there will be heightened expectations of all employees, especially supervisors. He spoke on the two new police officers that are graduating the academy on December 17th. In return for paying for their academy training, the officers are signing contracts with the City that require a two year commitment from the time they complete their field training.

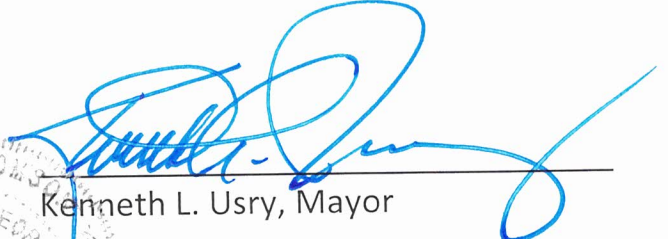
Mayor Report: Mayor Usry spoke on the upcoming Christmas parade on December 12th at 2:00pm. There is an extensive list of entries and looks like this will be one of the largest parades in years. Coldwell Banker has spearheaded this effort and is to be commended. The City Christmas luncheon is on December 17th, with the City holidays being December 24th, 27th, and 31st. Mayor Usry and CA Waller attended the Land Bank meeting earlier in the day, and there is some positive motion going forward with the Jackson Street fire station. This will not only put it back on the tax rolls but help to enhance the entire neighborhood.

Councilmember Smalley gave a report of the Christmas tree lighting at the Depot. Those in attendance expressed how they missed the school choirs singing and hoped that they will return. There was a small but enthusiastic crowd and Santa was well received. Councilmember Smalley also attended the EMS Banquet and was quite impressed with how well the combined services are growing. Councilmember Whittle commented on Antrevon "Tre" Johnson, President of the THS Student Council and affiliated with Youth Leadership, who is on the parade committee through Coldwell Banker and is bringing students to assist the day of the parade.

Having no other business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Johnson. A vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 6:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Kenneth L. Usry, Mayor

