

CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 11, 2024

6:00PM

Thomson-McDuffie Government Center

Present:

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:

Karen Fioretti, McDuffie Progress
9 Interested Citizens

Not Present:

Benji Cranford, Mayor

At 6:00pm, Mayor Pro-Tem Corley 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. Mayor Cranford was unable to attend the Council Meeting, so Mayor Pro-Tem Corley ran the meeting (leaving four councilmembers to vote on any actions).

CITIZEN INPUT: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council Meeting, March 14, 2024. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the minutes. A vote of 4-0 in favor was taken.
- b. Called Council Meeting, April 1, 2024. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the minutes as written. A vote of 4-0 in favor was taken.

BUSINESS:

- a. Spirits License Application – Rimpys at 520 Old Washington Road: An application by Thomson Liquor, LLC (Rimpys Liquor) was received with all qualifications met. The current license holder will terminate their license once this application is approved. The Staff Recommendation by Jason Smith, Community Development Director, is for the liquor license to be approved. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Whittle to approve the license. A vote of 3-0 was taken in favor, with Councilmember Smalley abstaining.
- b. Planning Commission Appointment: Penny Lowe currently serves on the Planning Commission for the City and her term is expiring. The Staff Report

by Jason Smith, Community Development Director, recommends Ms. Lowe be appointed for another four-year term. A motion to approve the appointment from 2024-2027 was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Whittle. A 4-0 vote in favor of the motion was taken.

- c. Special Event Permit Request – Diabetes Awareness Walk, September 28: A Special Event Permit has been requested by Ronnie Sallywhite for September 28, 2024. The walk would begin at 115 Pine Lane then follow Martin Luther King, Jr. Street to the Advance Auto store and return on the same path. This would require a partial closing of these two streets from 7:30 to 10:00am. A motion was made by Councilmember Belton to approve the permit and was seconded by Councilmember Johnson. A vote of 4-0 approved the motion.
- d. Resolution 03-2024: GEFA Loan LSLI2022022: This 50% principal forgiveness loan does not have to be approved until September, 2024. CA Waller asked that the resolution be temporarily tabled until it is determined if the loan is actually needed in the replacement, as federally mandated, of any possible lead pipe or fittings within the water system. Neither a motion nor vote was required to table the resolution. This issue will be revisited in a few months.
- e. Resolution 04-2024: GMEBS Agreement: The Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) administers the City's Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. As state and federal regulations governing such plans are changed, the agreement between the City and GMEBS must be updated. A motion made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the new agreement was passed with a 4-0 vote.

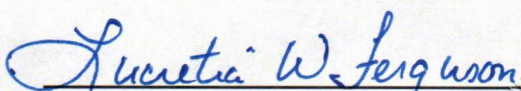
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Concerns: Mayor Pro-Tem Corley expressed concern over several streets in the City having been cut thru but not yet resurfaced. CA Waller explained that the majority of cuts have been repaired and several more are to be paved with the LMIG street resurfacing that will start soon.

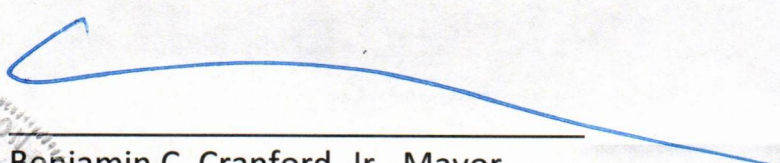
City Administrator Report: CA Waller spoke on the City Animal Ordinance that has been in question recently. The ordinance is good but the problem comes with enforcement. Neither the City nor the County have an Animal Control Officer. If a nuisance dog's owner cannot be identified then hopefully it can be trapped, preferably by use of one of the Animal Shelter's traps, and the animal can be taken to the Shelter. If the owner is identified, Code Enforcement can give them a warning and advise them of their responsibilities. If they cannot or will not control their animal, a citation will be issued and the owner will have to appear at Municipal Court and face a fine.

Having no other business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Johnson. A vote of 4-0 ended the meeting at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Benjamin C. Cranford, Jr., Mayor

