

CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 9, 2024

6:00PM

Thomson-McDuffie Government Center

Present:

Benji Cranford, Mayor
Alton Belton, Councilmember
Keryl Corley, Councilmember
Elaine Johnson, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Scott Whittle, Councilmember
John Waller, City Administrator
Lucretia Ferguson, City Clerk

Also Present:

Chief Dan Carrier, TPD
McDuffie Progress
32 Attendees

Not Present:

Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

At 6:04pm, Mayor Cranford called the regularly scheduled City Council meeting to order and Councilmember Belton gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Jackie Morgan spoke with displeasure on a recent traffic stop on April 20 by three Thomson Police Officers. Mayor Cranford thanked her for her concern. John Jump returned to lodge his complaint concerning speeders on Ellington Avenue and Whiteoak Street endangering children at White Oak Park. He would also like to have the speed limit lowered to 25 MPH on his end of Ellington Avenue instead of the current 30 MPH. Mayor Cranford thanked him for coming before the Council. Jarvis McNair asked that a pothole at the intersection of Main Street and West Street be repaired. His next request concerned information on City indebtedness. He asked for number and amounts of loans, what the funds were used for, the balance of each loan and how much was used for infrastructure. Mayor Cranford told him that an open records request would be the best way to obtain the information that he seeks and CA Waller added that he had all that information in his head if Mr. McNair would like to see him after the meeting. Waldo Massey addressed the Council with his dissatisfaction in business permits, indebtedness of the City and the difference of answers when he asks about bringing in a new grocery store. CA Waller asked to address the loan questions, GEFA's role in our low interest loans and ARPA money received in 2021. The money is being used for Water Treatment and Waste Water Treatment infrastructure improvements.

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 to approve.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Meeting, April 11, 2024: A motion was made by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the minutes. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken to approve.

BUSINESS:

- a. Popular Springs Baptist Church Request to Use Elections Parking Lot on 5/19/2024: A motion was made by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Smalley to approve the use of the parking lot on May 19th with the provision that a Special Event permit be filled out and submitted. A vote of 5-0 was taken in favor of the motion.
- b. CDBG 2023 Adoption of Updated Policies and Procedures: CA Waller explained that all government recipients are periodically required to update the home improvement portion of Community Development Block Grant agreements. This is the document sent to the City for adoption. A motion to adopt the document by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Johnson passed with a 5-0 vote in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report: Councilmember Smalley spoke on the community requirements that businesses want to have met before they locate in a new area. Councilmember Belton brought information on a large pothole at Old Washington Road and Highway 150.

City Administrator Report: Nothing.

Mayor Report: Mayor Cranford thanked all in attendance and encouraged citizens to speak up with their concerns.

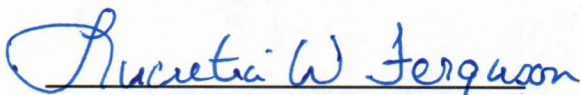
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

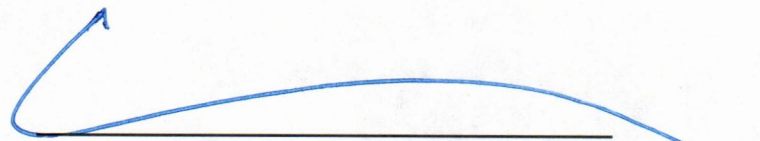
Having no other public business, the motion was made at 6:33pm by Councilmember Whittle and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel. A 5-0 vote passed the motion.

After the discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Corley to return to regular session at 7:19pm. An affirmative 5-0 vote was taken.

A motion to adjourn was tendered by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Smalley. A vote of 5-0 ended the meeting at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk


Benjamin C. Cranford, Jr., Mayor

