



CITY OF THOMSON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 8, 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
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Chief Dan Carrier, TPD
Karen Fioretti, McDuffie Progress
17 Visitors

At 6:00pm, Mayor Cranford 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: Michael (Mac) McIlhargey is the new Executive Director of the Thomson Y. Councilmember Corley introduced him to the Council, Mayor and Visitors. Roger Dozier took the podium next. He thanked the City for the street patching that has been completed.

Jackie Morgan spoke next about circumstances surrounding the detention of a 16-year-old after a footrace with the Thomson Police, including the unholstering of a weapon by the Officer. TPD was dispatched on a call to a vacant house with trespassers. Ms. Morgan had brought grievances before about two officers to the Council. She asked that an investigation be opened for everyone's safety. Mayor Cranford immediately called for Chief Carrier to suspend or fire the officers involved. The City Charter give the office of mayor the ability to suspend an employee for ten days. The Council can vote to overrule any such suspension.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Meeting, July 11, 2024. A motion was made by Councilmember Corley and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the minutes. A vote of 5-0 in favor was taken.

BUSINESS:

- a. Resolution 05-2024: Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) 2024 Policies and Procedures—Rules the City must abide by to receive the CHIP Grant.

- b. Resolution 06-2024: Homeowner Eligibility and Property Value Limits 2024— Governmental limits on income and property values for grant recipients.
- c. Resolution 07-2024: Georgia Statutes Adoption—Requirement to adopt Georgia State laws concerning Prohibition of Sanctuary Policies, the Drug-Free Workplace Act, and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act.
- d. Resolution 08-2024: Federal Standards for Section 3 Adoption—Adoption and Implementation of Federal Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Standards and Procedures of 24 CFR, Part 135, Section 3.
- e. Language Access Plan (LAP) for CHIP 2024: Adoption of the current Department of Community Affairs Document—A guide for the City to ensure meaningful access to HUD’s programs and activities by persons with Limited English Proficiency. This is required when a HUD threshold number is reached. Thomson has not yet reached that number, but the LAP must be adopted and in place.

CA Waller explained that all of the business today is attached to the CHIP 2024 document and, after explaining each one, asked if the Council would vote on them all as one package. Councilmember Belton made the motion to adopt all five requests with one vote and was seconded by Councilmember Johnson. A vote taken approved the motion 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council Report: Councilmember Corley asked CA Waller to check with the Planning & Zoning Department on information concerning new builds and what is in the works for commercial development. Councilmember Whittle voiced concern over a few people living out of their cars in the City.

City Administrator Report: CA Waller informed the Council that the Tax Digest is out this week. The Tax Digest went up from \$175,000,000 to \$195,000,000 this year. Now the Council must decide whether to retain the same 6.890 millage rate as last year, raise the rate or roll it back. Millage Rate hearings will have to be held. He then listed several areas that will have increases in funding next year. He spoke on the new Maxwell Elementary School’s use of our gas services and other updates.

Mayor Report: Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia W. Ferguson

Lucretia W. Ferguson, City Clerk

Benjamin C. Cranford, Jr.

Benjamin C. Cranford, Jr., Mayor

