

SPECIAL CALL MEETING
THOMSON CITY COUNCIL

April 21, 2011

5:00PM

City Hall

Present:

Kenneth Usry, Mayor
Clifford Lunceford, Councilmember
Bernice Brown, Councilmember
James Jones, Councilmember
Don Powers, City Administrator
Dianne Landers, City Clerk

Also Present:

Donna Branch, WTHO
Danielle Everson, McD Progress
Garth Snow, McD Mirror

Absent:

Alton Belton, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Mayor Usry called the Special Call Meeting of the Thomson City Council to order. The invocation was given by Councilmember Jones, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United State Flag.

Mayor Usry explained the purpose of this call meeting, to vote on the recommendations presented from the Thomson-McDuffie County Water and Sewer Commission.

Recommendations:

Results of Engineering Interviews; Augusta Road water Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Proposals
 - Developed and submitted on January 13, 2011.
 - Interviewed two lowest bidders, January 2011.
 - Wiedman & Singleton.
 - Carter and Sloope.
1. The Water and Sewer Commission agreed and recommends unanimously that we should enter into final negotiations with Carter and Sloope for the project at Augusta Road Water Plant (filter change out) and Wastewater Treatment Plant (aeration basin refurbishment)

Councilmember Lunceford moved to accept the recommendations from the Water and Sewer Commission as presented. Council member Jones seconded the motion. All three were in favor, motion carried by all.

Watershed Assessment

- Approved by EPD, written by Nutter and Associates
 - Implementation of Watershed Protection Plan
 - Recommend Nutter and Associates to write Watershed Protection Plan, cost estimated at \$6,000. Pay from sewer operations budget.
 - Recommend we self-perform regarding the testing prescribed in the Watershed Protection Document.
 - Some annual costs associated with training and report generation.
 - Budget yearly to pay from sewer operating budget.
2. The Water and Sewer Commission agreed and recommends unanimously that we should hire Nutter and Associates to write the Watershed Protection Plan at a cost estimated at \$6,000, paid from sewer operations budget. Also agreed and recommend unanimously that we self-perform as much of the testing regimen as we can, with training, analysis, and report generation handled by Nutter and Associates....funded yearly from the Sewer Operating Budget.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to accept the recommendation of the Water and Sewer Commission as presented. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Board of Education Project at the Brickyard

- Bid in two sections
 - Total Bid, \$70,771.26
 - Bid separate because the funding of each section is separate.
 1. Section one covers replacing asbestos water line from the National Guard Armory to West Street Culvert. \$23,633.26
 - a. This is our responsibility.
 2. Section two covers replacing a line inside the brickyard. \$47,138
 - a. This will be Board of Education funded and their responsibility.
 - b. Replacement made necessary by planned bleacher construction over existing water line.
 3. Recommend awarding contract to low bidder, Eagle Contracting for the entire bid.
 - a. Funding for City-County portion should come from City Renewal and Extension accounts.
3. The Water and Sewer Commission agreed and recommends unanimously that we should accept the low bid of Eagle Contracting for the entire job around the Brickyard at a cost of \$47,138 for the BOE funded portion and \$23,633.26 for the City County funded portion (to be paid from Renewals and Extensions account. Total of \$70,771.26.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to accept the recommendation of the Water and Sewer Commission as presented. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Rates

4. The Water and Sewer Commission agreed and recommends unanimously the following motion by Charlie Newton concerning rates....

“I move that the monthly sewer rates in McDuffie County be leveled at \$6.50 ready to service fee and \$3.25 per thousand usages for residential customers and \$10.00 ready to serve fee and \$3.25 per thousand usages for commercial and industrial customers. To make this leveling possible I add to this motion that \$965,000 for sewer system debt be paid off using funding from McDuffie County accounts set aside for water-sewer purposes. Furthermore I move that we address rate leveling for water bills at the April 2012 water-sewer commission meeting. Should rate leveling be possible in a single step with an increase of less than \$3.50 per month to customers on the old system, then leveling will take place. If a larger increase is required, a rate increase of \$3.50 will be applied to the old system and the resulting decrease in rates will be applied to the new system. This process will take place at the water-sewer commission meeting upon the April meeting in each following year until rates are leveled.

Amended by W-S Commission: After discussion the motion was amended as regards to water rates. The amended motion was the same as regards to sewer rates and debt payouts but stated that water rates throughout the and the County would be balanced in two years maximum, and the year one monthly calculated increase would be no higher than \$3.59 for the average residential customer.

After much discussion, Councilmember Jones moved to accept the recommendation from the Water and Sewer Commission. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. Councilmember Brown abstained from voting.

Since the quorum was three, legal advice was needed in order to verify if the motion could pass with just two votes. Therefore, this matter was tabled seeking advice from our City Attorney.

There being no further business, the Special Call Meeting of the City Council was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Dianne Landers
City Clerk