

**CITY OF THOMSON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
October 9, 2008**

6:30PM

CITY HALL

Present

Kenneth Usry, Mayor  
Alton Belton, Councilmember  
Clifford Lunceford, Councilmember  
John Smalley, Councilmember  
Bernice Brown, Councilmember  
James Jones, Councilmember  
Don Powers, City Administrator  
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney  
Dianne Landers, City Clerk

Also Present

Fred Guerrant  
Valerie L. Marshall  
Walter Hobbs  
Willie Myrick  
Traci H. Arrington  
Wanda Hyman  
Billy Hobbs, McD. Mirror  
Rick Sewell, Fire Chief  
Donna Branch, WTHO  
Jim Wallace, the Progress

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council meeting of October 9, 2008. The invocation was done by the Mayor with a special prayer for the recently injured Dr. Bill Jopling, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

City of Thomson Fire Chief, Rick Sewell presented information on the Mayor's Motorcade. This year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and will take place at the Georgia Regional Hospital on December 10, 2008 at 1:00 pm. The Thomson Fire Department raises funds yearly through donations from businesses, donations taken outside of the local Wal-Mart store, and having a concession stand at the Festival off Main in December.

**MINUTES:**

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on September 11, 2008. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion was carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Conditional Use Review – Wanda Hyman – 350 Gordon Street.

Wanda Hyman has requested a conditional use review and a zoning variance in connection with her vacant lot located at 350 Gordon Street. Ms. Hyman is currently the

owner of Millie's Florist located at the corner of Gordon St and Ellington Ave. Due to the downturn in the floral business she has reduced the area inside of her building assigned for the florist business and is planning to open a restaurant in the remaining portion. The overflow parking for the restaurant would be on a vacant lot adjacent to her building that is zoned for residential use. A Conditional Use approval is recommended to allow the lot to be used for restaurant parking only. Issues of concern discussed were the surface of the parking lot...crusher run (gravel), versus asphalt or concrete. Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the Conditional Use of the vacant lot, but to send the surface of the parking lot question back to the Thomson Historic Preservation Commission for consideration, since the property is in the Historic District. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion was carried.

#### First Reading of Ordinance Number 540 – Identity Theft.

This Ordinance is to amend the Code of Ordinances for the City of Thomson to provide an Ordinance regarding an Identity Theft Prevention Program, put in place to comply with federal regulations relating ways to prevent identify theft. This is the first reading of this ordinance.

#### Loan Applications: Revolving Loan Committee submitted the following recommendations:

Camellia Partners: UDAG loan for \$400,000 for debt retirement and stabilization of buildings.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the recommendation from the Revolving Loan Committee for a UDAG loan to the Camellia Partners for \$400,000 in the downtown area. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. The interest rate for this loan will be 2%.

Frankie and Dwight Galbreath: UDAG loan for \$45,000 for a business loan to move their home-based business to Railroad street. The loan will be for 10 years at an interest rate of 5%.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the recommendation and loan, seconded by Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. The motion carried.

#### Homecoming Parade – Student Council of Thomson High School :

The Thomson High School student council parade committee has submitted a request for a homecoming parade on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 3:30pm. The parade would start at the IGA parking lot, precede down East Hill Street, turn right onto Main Street, and conclude in the Middle School parking lot.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the request for the parade, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. The motion carried.

#### Board reappointment of Housing Authority – Frank Wills:

Mayor Usry recommended that Mr. Frank Wills be reappointed to the Thomson Housing Authority Board for another five year term to end 8-21-2013.

Councilmember Jones moved to accept the recommendation, seconded by Councilmember Brown. All were in favor. The motion was carried by all.

Street closings for the Holiday festivals:

**December 4, 2008 – Thursday – Tree Lighting Ceremony.** 6pm till 8pm to close off Railroad street from Main Street to Greenway street.

**December 5, 2008 - Friday – Set up for Festival Off Main.** 4pm till 7pm to close off Railroad Street from Main Street to Greenway Street.

**December 6, 2008 - Saturday – Festival Off Main.** 6am till 7pm to close off Greenway Street from Dublin, East Hendricks, Railroad to Cleveland Street.

**December 6, 2008 – Saturday night – Tour of Homes.** 5:30 pm until 10:00 to close off Milledge Street, Lee Street and Church Street.

**December 7, 2008 – Sunday – Christmas Parade.** 3pm till 5pm to close off Main Street from Thomson Middle School to Fluker Street via Main Street and West Hill Street.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

City Administrator Don Powers gave the following report:

- The runway extension project is essentially complete. Some runway wiring for lights, permanent grassing, and restoring the construction road are all that is left to be done.
- The Pitt Street Infrastructure Project is also underway. Anticipated finish is the end of the year. Storm water drainage and other utilities are being installed and/or moved first prior to streets, curb and gutter. We have also added some gas line work to the project, to be performed by the contractor in town for gas line re-locations for the bypass (Hodge) and paid for by the grant.
- We are getting the Pinehills Neighborhood association up and running and will have a neighborhood meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Depot.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

Dianne L. Landers  
City Clerk