

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 14, 2011

6:30PM

City Hall

Present:

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

Absent:

Clifford Lunceford, Councilmember
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Waymon Clark
Thomas Chalker
Lloyd Axon
Alton Davis
Ray Silverstein
Michael Helvie
Brink Bradshaw
Donna Stillinger, WTHO
Garth Snow, McD Mirror
Kimberly Usry, OCV
Tabitha Rogers, OCV

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of July 14, 2011. The invocation was given by Councilmember John Smalley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

It Takes A Village:

Ms. Kimberly Usry, spokesperson for what was formerly known as "It Takes A Village" and now presently titled "Our Children's Village", presented the Council with a highlight of the program's purpose and planned activities.

Ms. Usry emphasized the importance of the program in giving our children/youth a positive community in which to live. "We want to promote positive growth for our Youth" stated Ms. Usry. The program has been established for one (1) year and is now in the process of obtaining a 501(c) to aid in their many functions/activities.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2011, followed by a second from Councilmember Belton. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Amendment for Mid-Year 2011:

City Administrator Don Powers present the following mid-year budget amendments. Highlights are:

- ✓ General Fund - Revenues were improved primarily from the Federal grant from FEMA (Fire Dept) and USDA (old Post Office). Total revenue = \$157,300.00
Expenses were primarily Firehawk masks (FEMA grant), Workers Compensation and General Insurance which increased over budget across the board in all departments.
Total expenses = \$157,300.00
- ✓ Water Fund - We set up a revenue budget line for Renewal and Extensions, needed to cover expenses denied by McDuffie County SPLOST. There was an increase in the insurance claims as well. Total revenue = \$171,720.00
New expenses were the projects not covered by SPLOST and increases in workers compensation and general insurance.
Total expenses = \$171,720.00
- ✓ Gas Fund - Major revenue changes consisted of a line created to handle the MGAG loan customer receipts. Total revenues = \$20,200.00
New expenses were MGAG loan payments and an increase on the Municipal Gas Authority which is due to an increase in credits received against this bill.
Total expenses = \$20,200.00
- ✓ Solid Waste Fund – A savings on the Workers Compensation in the amount of \$28,301.00 enabled the expenses to be balanced against a a 13% increase in Gas, Oil and Fuel.
- ✓ Maintenance Fund - A balancing of funds already in budget.

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the midyear budget amendments, followed by a second from Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

First Reading of No Smoking Ordinance:

This is the first reading of an Ordinance prohibiting smoking on the property of the Thomson-McDuffie Government Center located at 210 Railroad Street and the McDuffie County Historic Courthouse located at 337 Main Street, Thomson, GA.

This ordinance prohibits smoking on all sections, rooms, hallways, corridors and any other areas located within the Court houses and any annexes: and upon the entirety of real property upon which Government Center/Courthouse(s) are located and this prohibition of smoking shall be effective during all hours of the day, including regular and after-business hours.

Appointment of Dianne Landers as the 2011 Election Qualifying Officer:

Mayor Usry recommended City Clerk Dianne Landers as the Qualifying Officer for the City elections of 2011.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the recommendation for the appointment. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Replacing Odorator for Natural Gas Department:

The existing Odorator was purchased in 1970 and is 41 years old. As a result of the age, spare parts are hard to get, or non-existent. Delivery of a new unit takes around 18-20 weeks from order date.

Three bids were gathered by Chuck Cason, Gas Superintendent:

- Marie Company, Inc. \$21,310
- Odorization Solutions \$25,500
- Bayou Engineering \$26,280

The recommendation from the Gas Department is to purchase equipment and installation from Marie Company, Inc's bid of \$21,310 and to pay from the Gas Capital Budget.

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the recommendation for the low bidder of Marie Company, Inc and to pay the cost out of the Gas Department Capital Budget. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution – Changing of Polling Places in the City of Thomson:

This resolution supports changing the location and names of the voting facilities in voting precincts C1 and C3 within the Municipal District of Thomson, Georgia

- a. (C1) City Hall -309 Main Street, Thomson, GA 30824 changes to space to be occupied by McDuffie County Elections Voter Registration Complex (Old Courthouse facility) 337 Main St.
- b. (C3) Human Development Center – 808 Whiteoak Road, Thomson, GA 30824 changes to Bethel Baptist Church, 500 Holt Street, Thomson, GA 30824

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the Resolution –Changing the Polling Places in C1 and C3 precincts. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of IGA Signage Variance:

The Historic Preservation Commission approved new signage for IGA.

- The sign that goes on the building is in compliance with the sign ordinance.
- The sign to be placed out by the road and used to replace the current sign was approved by the HPC and is not in compliance with the ordinance.
- HPC is recommending approval of the road sign as a variance to the ordinance.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the approval as well as the variance to the ordinance. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Bid Proposal – Protective Clothing- Fire Department:

The following bids were received for Fire Department Protective Clothing:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| NAFECO | \$7,024.04 |
| Municipal Equipment Company | \$7,625.00 |

The recommendation from the Fire Chief is accept the low bid from NAFECO.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the recommendation and the low bid from NAFECO. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Revised CDBG Housing Program Policies and Procedures:

This change is a requirement for General Property Improvements required by the Department of Community Affairs. It simply requires that 20% of CDBG funds may be used for general property improvements. General property improvements are items which are not necessarily needed in order to bring the housing unit into compliance with minimum code standards and International Residential Codes, but are work items requested by the homeowner in order to improve the property to a higher standard.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the revised changes to the CDBG Housing Policies and Procedures, followed by a second from Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Ray Silverstein spoke on behalf of a group of residents from Dearing. Mr. Silverstein issued a plea to the Council to resume study into water and sewer rates for the Dearing area. Mr. Silverstein's concern was the higher water and sewer rate charges for Dearing....compared with the difficulty of some Dearing residents to pay.

Mayor Usry assured Mr. Silverstein that the Council would look into this at a later date.

City Administrator Powers reported:

- ❖ The pit burner repair project at the Recycle Center is just about complete.
- ❖ The "Brickyard" water line project is complete.
- ❖ Bids for the 2010 CDBG project for the Pitt Street area will be received on Wednesday, July 13. This is a multi-activity grant, \$800,000 with a local match of \$60,000 required.

The Dedication ceremony for the new Government Complex will be August 5th from 7pm till 10pm.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Dianne Landers

City Clerk