

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 14, 2011

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:

Danielle Everson, McD. Progress
Garth Snow, McD. Mirror

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

MINUTES:

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2011 regular Council Meeting. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

CDBG Housing Program Policies and Procedures Revised Guidelines:

The CDBG Housing Program Policies and Procedures had to be revised as per instructions from DCA. These changes were sent to us and recommended by Linda Grijalva, CSRA-RC, who administers and oversees our CDBG Grants.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the revised guidelines to include the changes as recommended by RDC. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CHIP Housing Reconstruction Program Policies and Procedures:

Rhonda Gilbert, who administers our CHIP Housing Rehabilitation Program, recommended changes to the Financial Plan (Maximum CHIP) as follows:

“The maximum CHIP assistance will be \$37,280.00 per housing unit for housing rehabilitation. In some instances, the city may determine that it is reasonable to request that DCA allow the city to exceed the maximum. This will be considered on an as needed and on an individual basis. If the city determines that the housing unit is not suitable for rehabilitation and gets approval to reconstruct, the amount of CHIP funds will be based on the following formula:

A square foot estimate for a typical house on a slab of \$55-\$65 per sq ft. We will determine what the household is eligible for based on their current family make up. The maximum house size in Thomson is 1100 sq ft so the City estimates an approximate cost range from \$60,500 to \$71,500. The reconstruction of housing units will be bid to pre-qualified contractors and the city will recommend bid award to the lowest responsible bidder.”

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the changes to the financial Plan in the CHIP Policies and Procedures. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried by all.

Gas System Improvement Project:

The Municipal Gas Authority presented an improvement project to the City in January 2011, correcting a potential for problems with delivery of gas during times of high demand. The current area of concern during extreme cold would be west of Hwy 17...Wrightsboro Road, and future areas of concern would be delivery along Highway 17 north of the City and in the Industrial Park at HWY 150/I-20.

They recommended installation/upgrades from the City Barn area out to just behind Regions bank along Old Washington Road.

- Cost is estimated at \$600,000
- No capital provision was allowed in 2011 budget
- Reserves are currently in place to pay for this capital improvement

Councilmember Jones moved to go forward with the Gas System improvement project and that it is funded from Gas reserves. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

CDBG 2009 is progressing. The sewer is just about complete with one main installation left from Cherry Street Apartments to Pine Lane Drive. Once the sub-surface work has been done, paving will complete the street and sewer portion of the project.

The Board of Education is in the process of renovating the Brickyard. This means that a water line will have to be moved which runs under an area where new bleachers will be installed. The Board of Education has asked the City of Thomson to handle the bid process, which we are, and the funding for the move made necessary by the construction will come from the Board of Education.

At the same time and with the same contractor, we will also replace the water line which travels in front of the National Guard Armory north to a culvert running under the highway west to a drainage ditch beside Bradshaw’s office. Funding for this portion will come from Water-Sewer Reserves

We pressed the owners and received permission to tear down three single wide trailers on Dell Drive, properties condemned by Peter Ruddick. Demo paid for by the owner.

Chief Joe Nelson was nominated and chosen to attend the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement's (NCRLE) Rural Executive Management Institute (REMI) training course, to be held in Denver, CO (with all expenses paid). This training is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance to provide education and training to those who are Police Chiefs in rural settings.

No further business. Meeting adjourned into executive session for land transactions/ personnel issues at 6:55pm.

Councilmember Jones moved to close the regular meeting and to open into executive session. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Executive Session.

Councilmember Jones moved to close the executive session, followed by Councilmember Belton. All were in favor. Executive session closed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Dianne Landers
City Clerk