

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 8, 2011

6:30PM

City-County Government Center

Present:

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

Also Present:

Garth Snow, McD. Mirror
Donna Stillinger, WTHO
Larry Montgomery
Linda Green, McD. Progress
Peter Ruddick
Garth Snow, McD. Mirror

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of December 8, 2011. The invocation was given by Councilmember Clifford Lunceford, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Minutes:

Councilmember Brown moved to approve the minutes of the call meeting of November 17, 2011 followed by a second from Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

2nd and Final Reading of Ordinance #550 required by GMA allowing/confirming continued participation in Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System:

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the final reading of Ordinance #550, seconded by Councilmember Belton. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Adoption of updated Personnel Policy Manual:

Councilmember Belton moved to adopt the updated Personnel Policy Manual for the employees of the City. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution for TE Agreement, TE II Depot and Railroad Street:

This resolution authorizes the City of Thomson and the Georgia Department of Transportation to contract for funding under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the resolution for the TE Agreement, followed by a motion from Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Historic Preservation Commission Variance – Larry Montgomery.

Mr. Larry Montgomery made a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application to the HPC back in late summer. Mr. Montgomery, with Peter Ruddick's help, presented a package to the HPC which included painting and replacing existing windows with energy efficient windows. The HPC board also agreed to additional changes he requested, replacing the wood siding on the front and sides of the house with Hardy-plank, and to use vinyl siding to replace the wood siding on the rear only.

After that COA was approved, Mr. Montgomery changed his mind and wanted to replace the wood siding with vinyl on all sides, not just the rear. He submitted another COA stating such and the HPC denied it.

Mr. Montgomery asked the Council for a variance allowing vinyl siding to be used to replace the wooden siding on the entire house. He presented examples of other houses in his neighborhood that were covered with vinyl siding. It should be noted for the records that the vinyl siding on the houses he showed as examples was installed prior to the creation of the HPC.

After his presentation and some discussion, Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the variance allowing Mr. Montgomery to install vinyl siding on all sides of his home.

Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried by all.

Wastewater Supervisor – Lamar Fain:

Mr. Lamar Fain was approved as interim Wastewater Superintendent on May 17, 2011 after the retirement of Charles Montgomery. Duration of interim period was 6 months, or ending November 17, 2011. Lamar has taken on new duties as required and has done an excellent job in managing employees and the operations of all three plants. He is very conscientious in all aspects of his work and he communicates well with outside agencies and engineering firms. Mr. Powers, City Administrator, recommends his status to change from interim to permanent Wastewater Superintendent, effective December 9, 2011, at a recommended annual salary of \$44,799.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the recommendation, followed by a second from Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Decorative Lights for New Parking Lot:

The overflow parking area at 210 Railroad Street is in need of lights. The original budget for the parking lot expansion did not include lighting. The recommendation is to purchase the same type decorative lights as was purchased from Georgia Power Company for the Gov Center and the initial TE project on Main Street. This would involve an upfront cost of \$27,000 and a monthly fee of \$24.29 each. Mr. Powers recommended making the purchase and that the expense to be paid from SPLOST V/Transportation Category.

Councilmember Brown moved to approve the purchase of lights for the overflow parking lot. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

The Mayor's Motorcade visited the Regional Hospital today reporting a donation of \$6,167.70.

The 2010 CDBG infrastructure work is continuing with good progress to report. Sewer replacement and new storm water features have been finished on Dixie and the crew is now out on Pitt Street. Pitt Street and Dixie Drive will be resurfaced, and sidewalks are installed (more foot traffic close to the street), and the improvements continue to the Pitt Street Park area, engineers have recommended the addition of 2 speed humps to be placed on Pitt Street in order to reduce traffic speed and enhance pedestrian safety around the park area . This will be added as a change order and paid from the grant funds.

Engineering and surveying work has been started on the 2011 CDBG, which transitions our project on east of Dixie Drive to the Bussey Drive area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Councilmember Belton moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. Executive Session discussions were held with no action taken Councilmember Jones moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. Executive Session closed at 8:30pm.

Dianne Landers
City Clerk