

CITY OF THOMSON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
October 8, 2009  
6:30PM      City Hall

Present:

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

Also Present:

Will Phillips, McDuffie Progress  
Donna Branch, WTHO  
Nora Douglas

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of October 8, 2009. The invocation was done by Councilmember Jones, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**MINUTES:**

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on September 10, 2009. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The announcement of the City of Thomson receiving an \$800,000 CDBG Grant:  
City Administrator Don Powers traveled to Callaway Gardens on behalf of the City to receive this check. The grant is for housing rehab and infrastructure work on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street off of Pitt Street.

Appointment to the Development Authority Board:

This recommended appointment by the County Commission of Paul McCorkle to the Dev Auth was tabled until further notice. City Council has to approve jointly with the County.

Second Reading of the Right of Way (ROW) Ordinance:

This is the second and final reading for the Right of Way (ROW) Ordinance, developed for us by GMA and designed to better control City right of ways as regards to utilities and their use of these ROW's.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the Right of Way Ordinance followed by a second from Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Second Reading of the Historic Preservation Ordinance Changes:

This is the second reading regarding changes to the current HPC ordinance #530. The changes will reflect that the number of board appointments will be increased to seven (7) members; five (5) shall be residents of Thomson and two (2) may live in the unincorporated area of McDuffie County but must own or operate a business located in the city limits.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the changes to Ordinance #530.

Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Replacement for Bob Flanders, Historic Preservation Commission, Juanita Wheeler:

Bob Flanders, a member of the HPC, resigned his position at the end of August 2009.

Mayor Usry presented the name of Juanita Wheeler as a replacement for Mr. Flanders.

Councilmember Smalley moved to appoint Juanita Wheeler to the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Contract for Technical Services between the City of Thomson and the CSRA Regional Commission:

The CSRA Regional Commission wrote the application for the aforementioned \$800,000 CDBG grant that was received by the City. This technical services contract engages the Regional Commission to render technical advice, assistance and services in connection with activities carried out under the approved grant....to administer the grant. This project will deal with storm water improvements, street paving, repair of sewer lines, and renovation of approx. six (6) houses. The contract with the CSRA Regional Commission will pay \$58,000 for grant administration, which is 7% of the award.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the contract with the CSRA Regional Commission. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Alcoholic Beverage Application – Rimpj Jauhal Corporation at 735 Cobbham Road:

This is a new application from Rimpj Jauhal Corporation for a license to sell alcoholic beverages...beer and wine.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the application from Rimpj Jauhal, followed by a second from Councilmember Brown. All were in favor. One abstained, Councilmember Smalley. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION:**

City Administrator Don Powers reported that the City is currently asking for qualifications from several engineering firms for the upcoming TE grant (TE II and III) for the Depot and Railroad Street area.

Thomson-McDuffie was selected as a finalist for the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. This is a collaborative effort sponsored by DCA, GMA, and the University of Georgia. If selected, the housing team will be given a three year program of training designed to help us develop and implement a plan to adequately meet our housing needs.

We have developed criteria for pre-applications for the sale of our house at 524 Railroad Street.

There was one guest present, Mrs. Nora Douglas. Mrs. Douglas concern was the resurfacing of Mobley Street. The Mayor assured Mrs. Douglas that Mobley Street was on the LARP list for December 2009.

Mrs. Douglas also stressed that speeding is a problem when school is in session. Mayor Usry stated that he would look at speed limit signs, post additional signs and ask the Police to do more patrolling.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Dianne Landers  
City Clerk