

CITY OF THOMSON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
November 12, 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:

Donnie Haddon  
Billy Hobbs, the McD. Mirror  
Mike Hogan  
Donna Branch, WTHO  
Bea Hart-Moss

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of November 12, 2009. The invocation was given by Councilmember Smalley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**PRESENTATION:**

Donald (Donnie) Hadden was honored for his 10 years of service. Mr. Hadden works with the Gas Department. He received a plaque and a monetary gift.

**MINUTES:**

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on October 8, 2009. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Development Authority Board Appointment:

In September 2009, the McDuffie County Commission appointed Paul McCorkle to a vacant position on the Board. The City was asked to approve this appointment since this position requires joint approval. This approval was tabled until tonight when Mr. John Perryman was recommended from the City of Thomson.

Councilmember Belton moved to recommend John Perryman on the Development Authority Board. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. Four were in favor. Councilmember Lunceford abstained. Motion carried. *The conflicting appointments will be worked out by Kenneth and Chairman Newton before the next Council meeting.*

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Service Delivery Strategy City of Thomson, McDuffie County and the Town of Dearing:

This resolution requests that a delay be allowed regarding the required update to the existing Service Delivery Strategy approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in 1999. This Service Delivery Strategy must be updated simultaneously with the Comprehensive Plan's update. This resolution allows for updates to the plan and asks DCA to extend the submittal date until February 28, 2010.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to accept the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### Budget for 2010 – Final Approval:

2010 Budget's recap includes: (1) Millage rate of 5.04. (2) Salary increase of 1.5 percent. These increases will be held until results of the first quarter are in and reviewed. At that time decisions will be made concerning pay increases. (3) A slight increase on gas rates for commercial/interruptible customers.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the budget for 2010. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### Street Closures for the Festival off Main:

The Festival off Main committee has requested street closures for:

- Thursday, December 3, 2009 – Tree Lighting Ceremony
  - Railroad Street to Greenway
- Saturday, December 5, 2009 – Festival Off Main
  - Journal Street from Main Street to Greenway Street.
- Sunday, December 6, 2009 – Annual Christmas Parade
  - Thomson Middle School to Fluker Street via Main Street and West Hill Street.

### Bob Flanders – Sidewalk request:

Mr. Bob Flanders has volunteered to pay the cost of materials and installation to replace sections of the sidewalk around his house, if the City would furnish the labor and equipment for hauling out the old concrete. The area is located on the north side which sits on the corner of Lee Street and West Hall Street.

### EIP loan for Hogie's Restaurant:

The EIP loan committee met on November 12, 2009 to hear a request from Mike Hogan, Amy Kiel, and others for a loan to establish a new restaurant. The location will be 128 Railroad Street and may employ as many as 16 people.

The loan committee made a recommendation to approve a loan for \$100,000 for 10 years at an interest rate of 5% with a personal guarantee from all involved. All equipment will be pledged as collateral.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the recommendation from the loan committee. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Brink Bradshaw – appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission ruling:

Mayor Usry stated that this appeal will be sent back to the HPC in order to resolve any existing problems.

**DISCUSSION:**

Interviews are currently taking place with three engineering/architectural firms for the upcoming TE grant work down around the Depot and Railroad Street. Anne Floyd, CSRA RC is the grant administrator. The three finalists for the project are:

- a. Cranston Engineering in conjunction with CFS Architects (Augusta)
- b. Surber, Barber, Choate and Hertlein (Architects) in conjunction with The Jaeger Group – Engineers (Atlanta and Athens)
- c. MACTEC (Engineers) and Carlson-Jones – architects (Atlanta)

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

Dianne L. Landers

City Clerk