

CITY OF THOMSON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
December 10, 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:

Billy W. Hobbs, The McD. Mirror  
Beverly Rabun  
Donna Branch, WTHO  
Bea Hart-Moss

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of December 10, 2009. The invocation was given by Councilmember John Smalley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**PRESENTATION:**

Dexter Reese was honored for 10 years of service. Mr. Reese does a fine job in his work with the Solid Waste Department as a driver of our knuckle boom loader. He received a plaque and a monetary gift.

**MINUTES:**

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on November 12, 2009. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Development Authority:

The appointment of the vacancy to the Development Authority Board has been tabled until after the McDuffie County Board of Commission meets. Mayor Usry and Commission Board Chair Newton resolved the appointments with a proposed change in the Dev Auth by laws. These changes will be discussed in the January City Council meeting

## NEW BUSINESS:

### Authorization to approve RDC Resolution:

This resolution by the City of Thomson authorizes the transmittal of the Community Agenda section of the Comprehensive Plan 10 year update to the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review. The vote was taken to give the Mayor authorization to sign the resolution after a public meeting scheduled to occur on December 21, 2009. (The meeting occurred and the resolution was given to the CSRA-RC as described above).

Councilmember Belton moved for the approval of the Resolution, allowing the Mayor to sign for Council after competition of the public hearing on Dec 21. Second by Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### Request for an Armed Forces Memorial Day Parade, Saturday, May 15, 2010 – McDuffie County Board of Education:

The McDuffie County School System is interested in sponsoring an Armed Forces-Memorial Day parade on May 15, 2010. The parade route is planned to begin at the IGA Shopping Center to Main Street, and to end at the Brickyard.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the request from the McDuffie County Board of Education. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### First Reading – Ordinance to amend Sunday Alcohol Sales.

This is the first reading of an Ordinance to amend Ordinance #499 to allow the Sale of Alcohol. A referendum was passed on March 17, 2009 allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises on Sunday from 12:30pm until 12:00 midnight in any licenses establishment which derives a least 50 percent of its total annual gross sales from the sale of prepared meals or food in all of the combined retail outlets of the individual establishment where food is served and in any licensed establishment which derives at least 50 percent of its total annual gross income from the rental of rooms for overnight lodging. No action until second reading.

### Architect/Engineer Selection – TE Grant:

Three engineering/architectural firms have been interviewed for consideration for the upcoming TE Grant work down around the Depot and Railroad Street. They were:

- 1) Suber, Barber, Choate & Hertlein (Architects) in conjunction with the Jaeger Group (Engineers) – Atlanta and Athens, GA. **\$110,757**
- 2) Cranston Engineering with CFS Architects–Augusta, GA **\$114,926**
- 3) MACTEC and Carlson-Jones (Architects) – Atlanta, GA **\$90,000**

Based on the interviewers, Mayor Usry, Anne Floyd and Don Powers, all three were in agreement that Suber, Barber, Choate and Hertlein was the best qualified and this was the recommendation to Council.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the recommendation of the interviewers and to move forward with the negotiations. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Signage – Proposed changes:

Several Chamber members recently met with the Mayor and City Administrator. The reason for the meeting was to discuss the sign ordinance, concerns of some of the requirements, and possible changes to the ordinance. In response to the above issues, Mayor Usry will put together a committee to address some changes, concerns, etc. The Mayor's overall intent of the Sign Ordinance is to clean up the City of Thomson's appearance. Councilmember Jones, Belton and Lunceford volunteered to serve on the committee.

**DISCUSSION:**

City Administrator reported on the Neighborhood meeting with the Martin Luther King Jr. Street residents. The City has made significant progress in the area. One of the proposed traffic improvements will be a three (3)- way stop at Martin Luther King and West Street in front of the Crossroads school.

The Fire Department is developing a training facility at the recycle area, down next to the Augusta Road water filter plant. This is the first of many steps required over several years to lower our ISO rating in the City.

Councilmember Smalley and Thomson Fire Department visited the Central State Hospital in Augusta, GA as part of the Mayor's Motorcade for 2009. A contribution of approximately \$4,100 was presented from the Thomson-McDuffie County area.

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

Dianne L. Landers  
City Clerk