

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2010
6:30 PM**

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
Dianne Landers, City Clerk

Absent:

Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Billy W. Hobbs, McD. Mirror
Will Phillips, McD. Mirror
Shelia Harmon, H&H Sign
Fred Guerrant
James Taylor
Cindy Johnson
Donna Branch, WTHO
Mary Bailey
Latasha Bailey
Randy Gingery
Randy Gingery, Jr
Waldemar Haurbsch
Frankie Galbreath
Beverly Rabun
Jamie L Burnett

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of March 11, 2010. The invocation was given by Councilmember Smalley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

PRESENTATION:

Thomson Police Chief, John Hathaway received a proclamation for 37 years of service with the City of Thomson. Chief Hathaway was employed by the City of Thomson as Chief in the Police Department on March 17, 1986, serving with the department prior as a patrolman. A proclamation was presented from the City of Thomson and a plaque of appreciation was given to the Chief from the Thomson Police Department.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 9, 2010. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Police Chief Position:

Mayor Usry presented the recommending results from the five (5) candidates interviewed for Police Chief. Councilmember Belton made a motion to approve the hiring of Mr. Joe Nelson from Washington, GA as the Police Chief for the Thomson Police Department. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Sign Ordinance Amendment:

This is the first reading of proposed changes to the City of Thomson Sign Ordinance. The following changes are presented:

- Current permanent signs that are out of compliance as per the new ordinance must be brought into compliance if and when a new **business** begins use of the property associated with that out of compliance sign.
- Business owners are now afforded the option of including four lines of manual change copy on the face of their monument sign.
- Hanging of signs above entrances in PUD developments (e.g. shopping centers,).
- A-frame or "sandwich signs" are now permitted in all districts except residential.

- Limitations as to specifications to the allowances for internal or external illumination based on the type sign are now permitted.
- Temporary signs and banners are allowed on a more flexible schedule of eight times per year for a one week period.
- All HPC guidelines were rolled into the Sign ordinance. The Planning Commission can use the HPC for input as needed.
- Additional building materials were added to the approved monument sign construction section

City-County Government Building – Additions to work plan:

The City of Thomson recommended a list of “add backs” to the City-County building that was discussed to be sent to McDuffie County for consideration in their March 16, 2010 meeting:

- IT infrastructure and Furniture and Fixtures.
- More public parking.
- More staff parking.
- Add natural gas for pre-heat.
- Street lights (allowance)
- Overhead power lines to underground.
- Land acquisition – Trade Street area.

Alcohol License – Harley’s Grill:

Harley’s Grill on Augusta Highway presented a petition for an alcohol license for their restaurant.

Councilmember Jones moved to accept the petition and grant an alcohol license to Harley’s Grill.

Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor except one. Councilmember Smalley abstained. Motion was carried.

Resolution to Amend Creation of the Board of Directors of the Development Authority of McDuffie County and City of Thomson:

This resolution will modify the manner in which the Board of Directors for the Development Authority of McDuffie County and the City of Thomson are elected and to set the term of office. Per the resolution, the number of members/directors of the Authority shall be seven (7) which will allow McDuffie County to fill Directors #2, #4 and #6; The City of Thomson to fill Directors #1, #3 and #5. Director #7 shall be selected jointly by the Board of Commissioners of McDuffie County and the City Council of the City of Thomson. Said term for each member shall be six (6) years.

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

Resolution Authorizing Application for CDBG Grant:

This resolution from the City of Thomson authorizes the filing of a 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), including all understandings and assurances contained therein.

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

Bid Proposal for Fire Protection Clothing:

The Thomson Fire Department submitted the following bids for Protective Clothing based on a budget of \$12,000.00:

∞Municipal Equipment Company Tifton, GA	\$10,975.00
∞FireLine, Inc. Winder, GA	\$15,5671.00
∞Nafeco* Decatur, AL	\$11,093.00

Fire Chief Sewell recommended Nafeco for two reasons; (1) The low bidder, Municipal Equipment was for special orders only and could take up to 60 days to deliver, and (2) Nafeco equipment is already in stock, plus the Fire Department has a good working reputation with them. Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the recommendation of the Fire Chief. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Car Show Report:

The Chamber of Commerce annual "Car Show" Committee requested closure of Main Street for April 24, 2010 from the Railroad tracks to Whiteoak Street from 10:00am until 4:00pm. Councilmember Belton moved to approve the closure of Main Street for the car show pending approval of the Department of Transportation. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

City Administrator Powers reported concerning "major surgery" on Forest Clary Drive on a failing cross-drain which had a sewer main running through it. The Gas, Water and Street Departments worked together on this project.

Mrs. Mary Bailey presented her request for the Adult shop. The ordinance was discussed as to adult entertainment. Since this (adult shop) would be considered adult entertainment, Mrs. Bailey wanted the Ordinance excused or overridden. Councilmember Jones stated that the Ordinance is the law.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk