

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 13, 2010
6:30PM City Hall**

Present:

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

Also Present:

Billy Hobbs, the Mirror
Fred Guerrant
Scott Whittle
Will Phillips, the McD. Progress
Donna Branch, WTHO

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of May 13, 2010. The invocation was given by Councilmember Smalley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

PRESENTATION:

Officer Jamie Smith of the Thomson Police Department was recognized for 20 years of faithful service with the City of Thomson. Officer Smith received a plaque from the Thomson Police Department as well a certificate for service along with a monetary gift.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of April 8, 2010 as well as the Special Call Council Meeting of April 20, 2010. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of New Investigator for the City of Thomson Police Department:

Police Chief Joe Nelson introduced Officer Jamie Bridges as the Investigator for the Thomson Police Department. Officer Bridges resides in Thomson but was previously employed in Greene County.

Planning and Zoning – Amendment to Soil Erosion and Control Ordinance:

This is the first reading for the Soil Erosion and Control Ordinance which is required to be adopted by the City of Thomson per the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Every four to six years as circumstances and erosion and pollution issues change the GSWCC and EPD will update the regulations with the result that the “old” ordinance needs to be amended and adopted by the cities and counties throughout the state.

Recommendation from the GICH Housing Team:

We have learned that Land Bank Authorities are an effective tool used in communities across the state. The purpose of a local Land Bank Authority is to foster a means to return property that is non-revenue generating and or non tax-producing.

- The Authority works as quasi-government extension of the local governments and can dispose of land in ways that City and County governments cannot.
- Has to be a joint Authority with the County.
- Intergovernmental agreement is the operating document.
- Board is equally chosen by city and county.

- Sample of typical agreement attached available at City Hall.

Councilmember Smalley moved to allow our attorneys to research code and develop a draft intergovernmental document and resolution relative to Land Bank Authority formation. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Grant to Department of Natural Resources:

A resolution was submitted for pre-application for funding from the Land and Waster Conservation Fund. By this resolution, the City of Thomson recommends for funding by the Department of Natural Resources and certifies and assures that it has the ability and intention to finance their 50 percent of the total project cost and will move forward with due diligence to prepare, or have prepared, appropriate documentation required for a formal LWCF application. Councilmember Belton moved to submit the resolution followed by a second from Councilmember Brown. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Uniform Bid Proposal – Thomson Police Department/Fire Department:

Bids were sent out to the following Cleaners for proposals in the cleaning of uniforms:

J & J Colonial Cleaners
Greenway Street

Camellia City Cleaners
235 East Hill Street

Home Laundry
234 Johnson Ave

J and J Cleaners was the lowest bidder.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the lowest bidder, J and J Cleaners. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Façade Grant Amendment:

The City of Thomson has three (3) outstanding Façade Grants from 2009. Because of these outstanding grants and the impact they have on our budget, City Administrator Powers proposed an addition/amendment to the Guidelines for Façade Grants to include:

Proposed Addition: Façade grants must be complete and the money paid with appropriate documentation on file 12 months from the date the grant is awarded.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the addition and that the City Administrator sends notification of the guideline changes to all active recipients and informs them that as of May 13, 2010 they have a 90 day extension in order to comply. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

Railroad Street will be paved during the months of May and June as part of ARRA “stimulus” funds. Cabling is now being placed underground and new curb and gutter will be installed along each side of Railroad and Greenway down to the back side of the government site. The ARRA funds have to be spent by June 20.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk