

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

November 8, 2007

7:30PM

CITY HALL

Present

Robert E. Knox, Jr., Mayor
Alton Belton, Councilmember
Kenneth Usry, Councilmember
J. T. Wiley, Councilmember
James Jones, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Don Powers, City Administrator
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney
Dianne L. Landers, City Clerk

Also Present

Bernice Brown
Jim Wallace, McD. Progress
Billy Hobbs, the McD. Mirror
Bud Lunceford
Donna Branch
Cyndie Locklear

Mayor Knox welcomed all and called the Regular Council meeting for November 2007 to order. A moment of silence was given in honor of Mr. Joseph Greene, a distinguished citizen, who passed away on November 5, 2007; the invocation was given by Councilmember Smalley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on October 11, 2007. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all.

NEW BUSINESS

Annexation of properties Cedar Rock and Twin Oaks area:

The Council was presented a proposal to annex property the west side of McDuffie County. This property includes parcels in the Cedar Rock and Hayes Line areas and property north of Mesena Road (formerly the Thomson Oak Flooring property). The total size of these properties being considered for annexation is approximately 300 acres. This is the first reading of this ordinance.

Budget Amendments for 2007 to the General Fund, Gas, Water Solid Waste and Maintenance Depts.:

-] The General Fund's budget is increased by \$198,664 for both revenue and expenses. The areas of revenue increase are Insurance Premium Tax, contribution from the Gas Fund to cover Capital items, sale of surplus property and transfers from Gas and Water to cover administrative salaries. Increased expenses are

airport matching funds, new audit costs, prisoner medical and meals, and misc. supplies.

-] The Water Fund's budget increase is \$63,710 for both revenue and expense. Revenues are up in the areas of Water Taps, Insurance Claims and Transfers from Renewals and Extensions. On the expense side, we've had increases compared to budget in Wastewater Treatment repair and maintenance, utilities, gas and oil; Water Treatment Facilities utilities, chemicals and supplies; and Water Distribution supplies, gas and oil.
-] The Gas Fund's budget is decreased by \$3,421,000, reflecting lower sales compared to budget and correspondingly, lower purchases of gas.
-] In the Solid Waste Fund, the budget was reset by \$46,500 in both revenue and expenses. Waste Disposal Revenue is higher than budget as are expenses such as audit costs, repairs and maintenance of vehicles, disposal cost, and gas, oil and fuel.
-] The Maintenance Fund was decreased by \$10,000 on the revenue and expense side.

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the budget amendments for 2007, seconded by Councilmember Wiley. The motion was carried.

Proclamation for Recycle Day 2007:

To spotlight our recycling activities and to fulfill a requirement in our new GEFA recycling grant, the City of Thomson has chosen November 15, 2007 as Recycle Day. The purpose of this day will be to encourage employees, staff, customers and all residents to recycle more and to buy more recycled products. A Proclamation was approved setting aside Thursday, November 15, 2007 as "Thomson Recycles Day" in the City of Thomson. The Recycling center will also have an open house on the 15th, encouraging citizens to come by, bring their recyclable materials, see the facility and enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the Fire Dept.

Animal Control Board Appointment:

Dr. Darrell Wester's term on the Animal Control Board expired July 30, 2007. Dr. Wester has agreed to be re-appointed for another three year term on this board. Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the re-appointment of Dr. Wester, seconded by Councilmember Jones. The motion carried.

Closure of Street for Christmas Activities:

The Chamber requested that we close the following streets as relates to Christmas activities:

-] Railroad Street from Main Street to Greenway for Thursday, November 29 for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

- } Greenway Street from Railroad Street to East Hendricks Street, Friday, November 30 from 4PM to 7PM, and Saturday, December 1 for the Festival off Main.
- } Main Street from Thomson Middle School to West Hill Street to Fluker Street for the annual Christmas Parade, Sunday, December 2, 2007.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the street closures. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Banner request from First Baptist Church:

First Baptist Church has requested a banner to be hung for the annual Drive-thru Nativity. Dates are December 7-13, 2007.

Councilmember Belton moved the approval of the banner request, seconded by Councilmember Usry. Motion approved by all.

DISCUSSION

Mayor's Day is January 26-28, 2008 in Atlanta, GA at the Hilton Hotel.

City Administrator Don Powers gave a report on the TE project. He stated that the new lights will go up next week and the paving in the parking lots should be complete about the same time.

The first public meeting on the new CHIP grants (housing rehab in the Pitt Street and Strawberry Hill areas) was held November 7, 2007 at Springfield Baptist Church. The public meeting was to explain the project and start qualifying households for improvements. Attendance and sign-ups was very good.

The City of Thomson received our insurance rate notice for 2008. The premiums for the current plan will be raised 17%. There will be more discussion on rates and plans at the next Council meeting

Their being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk