

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

December 13, 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

Billy Hobbs, the McDuffie Mirror
Peter Ruddick, Director- Streets & S. Waste
Jim Wallace, McDuffie Progress
Scott Huff, Director-Water Distribution
Cyndie Locklear
Jackson Lee
Donna Branch, WTHO
Leon Cato
Bud Lunceford
Bea Hart-Moss

Mayor Knox welcomed all and called the Regular Council meeting for December 13, 2007 to order. The invocation was given by the Mayor followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Leon Cato was presented a proclamation for 13 years of service with the City of Thomson. Leon has been a mainstay in the City's Street and Solid Waste department, his work exemplified by a faithful and effective job performance each day. Throughout his 13 years, Leon has assisted in several community events such as Relay for Life, Festival Off Main, Christmas Parade and many more. He will be missed

John T. Wiley was presented a proclamation for 17 years of service as a member of the City Council. Mr. Wiley has spent many long hours above and beyond the call of duty in service to his community. Mr. Wiley became a member of the City Council in January 1991 and while in office he served as Chairman of the Water-Sewer Commission for Thomson and McDuffie County, a member of the McDuffie County Health Department and a staunch supporter at Westview Cemetery and all Thomson cleanup and redevelopment efforts. His thoughtful deliberation, strong intellect, and dedication will be missed by all in the Community

MINUTES

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on November 8, 2007. Councilmember Wiley seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all.

NEW BUSINESS**1st Reading of Ordinance on Health Insurance Decision:**

City Administrator Powers presented a new plan for all employees' health insurance coverage and corresponding ordinance for 1st reading. This ordinance allows the City of Thomson to subscribe to a plan of employee benefits offered through the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System for employees of the City of Thomson; to provide an effective date for the provision of employee benefits; and to repeal conflicting ordinances.

Under the newly proposed plan, characterized as an "80/60-\$500" plan versus the current plan "90/80-\$300", costs per employee will rise 4%. Costs for the older plan if left in place would be 17% higher than 2007 actuals. (Chart enclosed) This new plan is purposed to go into effect March 1, 2008. The Mayor and Council gave their unofficial consensus to move forward with the new plan and rates. The second reading will occur in January.

Equipment purchase with GMA Financing:**1. Excavator-Rubber Tracks – Street and Water Distribution:**

Bobcat of Augusta Bobcat Excavator	\$81,732.53 (Meets all specifications)
ASC Construction Volvo ECR88	\$95,535.00 (Does not meet specs)
Mason Tractor Takeuchi Excavator	\$79,931.20 (Does not meet specs)
Mason Tractor Kubota Excavator	\$77,241.82 (Does not meet specs)
2008 budget = \$100,000.00	

Recommendation from Scott Huff, Director of Water Distribution to accept the bid from Bobcat of Augusta due to their meeting all required specifications.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the recommendation from Mr. Huff and approve the bid from Bobcat of Augusta. Councilmember Wiley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Skid-Steer Loader – Water Distribution:

Bobcat of Augusta-Bobcat Skid Steer Loader	\$40,802.04 (Meets all specifications)
Briggs Construction - Case Skid Steer Loader	\$46,085.00
ASC Construction – Volvo Skid Steer Loader	\$46,400.00
Mason Tractor – New Holland Skid Loader	\$56,731.00
2008 budget = \$45,000.00	

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the low bid from Bobcat of Augusta for the Steer Loader, seconded by Councilmember Jones. Motion carried.

3. F550 Heavy Duty Pickup – Sewer Department:

Culpepper Ford F550 w/Knapheide Service Body	\$38,796.69
Bobby Jones Ford F550 w/Knapheide Body	\$35,767.69
Thomson Motor Dodge 550 w/Knapheide Body	\$42,441.00
2008 budget = \$40,000.00	

Recommendation was given to accept Culpepper Ford's bid, even though it was higher... the dealer is local and the price difference was within 10 %.

Councilmember Usry moved to accept the bid from Culpepper Ford of Thomson, seconded by Councilmember Belton. Motion carried by all.

4. Tractor, Rotary, Mower and Front End Loader – Water and Sewer:

Interstate Equipment – Case Tractor	\$47,985.00 (1,500.00 for skid plates)
Augusta Turf & Tractor – John Deere Tractor	\$43,569.60 (1,500.00 for skid plates)
Mason Tractor – Massey Ferguson Tractor	\$43,775.00 (1,500.00 for skid plates)
Mason Tractor – New Holland Tractor	\$44,894.00 (1,500.00 for skid plates)
Mason Tractor – Kubota Tractor	\$46,374.00 (1,500.00 for skid plates)

2008 budget = \$50,000.00

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the bid from Interstate Equipment since it is locally owned and bid is within 10% of other bidders. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Backhoe – Gas Department:

Briggs Construction, Columbia, SC – Case Backhoe	\$69,745.00
Briggs Construction, Lawrenceville, GA – Case Backhoe	\$70,650.00

2008 budget = \$90,000.00

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the low bid from Briggs Construction in Columbia, SC, seconded by Councilmember Jones. Motion carried.

6. Container Truck – Solid Waste Department:

Freightliner of Augusta – New Way Mammoth	\$185,485.00
Nextran Truck of Atlanta – New Way Mammoth	\$182,000.00
Consolidated Disposal – New Way Mammoth	\$185,985.00
Peach State Truck – Hercules Condor	\$189,926.00

All of above offers a 5-yr warranty for \$2,500.00

2008 Budget = \$185,000.00

Peter Ruddick, director of the Solid Waste Department recommended Freightliner of Augusta because of location of dealer as regards maintenance.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the recommendation and approve the bid from Freightliner of Augusta, seconded by Councilmember Belton. Motion carried.

7. Street Sweeper – Street Department:

Consolidated Disposal – TYMCO Model 435	\$93,000.00
Tractor & Equipment Co. – Elgin Crosswind	\$104,750.00

2008 budget = \$145,000.00.

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the bid from Consolidated Disposal, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. Motion carried.

The total of all bids is approximately \$561,546.00. City of Thomson's budget for these items in 2008 is \$655,000.00.

Financing will be accomplished through the Georgia Municipal Association. Interest rate quoted is 3.5% yielding annual payments of \$122,646.44 vs. 2008 budget of \$147,430 annually.

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the financing arrangements with Georgia Municipal Association, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. Motion to approve carried by all.

Board Appointment for the Recreation and Leisure Service Board:

Mr. Fay Smith's term on the Recreation Board needs to be filled. Mr. Smith has expressed the desire to not be re-appointed. Mr. Greg Derry was recommended. Jaye Jones and Alton Belton were appointed earlier to fill unexpired terms. Also, Mr. Bill Doupe's term expired June 2007.

Councilmember Usry moved to appoint Greg Derry, James Jones, Alton Belton and Bill Doupe to a four year term on the Recreation and Leisure Board. Councilmember Wiley seconded the motion. Motion carried by all.

1st Reading for Ordinance on Cable Franchise:

The last session of the legislature passed a bill that will allow utilities that currently have franchise agreements with the City such as Comcast, for example, to go directly to the State instead of each City in order to obtain a state wide agreement. This ordinance will state that we will set a 5% rate as our franchise fee. This is a first reading.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The TE project is moving to Railroad Street for sidewalk removal and replacement. Should be there the rest of the month and then out on Main.

The City has been awarded the second TE grant for \$400,000. This grant will be used for work on the Depot, inside and outside.

We completed the field work last week on the Environmental tasks at Thomson Company.

Announcements: Leon Cato's luncheon, City Hall – December 14, 2007 (Noon -1:30pm)
Celebration for Mayor Knox at Depot – December 30, 2007 (2:00pm - 5:00pm)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk