

**CITY OF THOMSON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 8, 2010**

**6:30PM**

**City Hall**

Present:

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

Also Present:

Fred Guerrant  
Billy Hobbs, the Mirror  
Donna Branch, WTHO  
Carrie Lokey, Leadership McD.  
Bea Hart-Moss  
Beverly Rabun  
Justin Schuver, McD. Progress  
Chuck Cason, Gas Dept.

Absent:

Alton Belton, Councilmember

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of April 8, 2010. The invocation was given by Councilmember Smalley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**MINUTES:**

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of March 11, 2010. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Sign Ordinance Amendment, Second Reading:

This is the second reading of proposed changes to the City of Thomson Sign Ordinance. Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the changes to the Ordinance. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Car Show Permit:

The Car Show for April 24, 2010 has submitted a permit for a street closing of Main Street for six hours. The Department of Transportation was sent a request to interrupt state route traffic and responded with a favorable letter of approval.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Introduction of Joe Nelson, Chief of Police:

Chief Joe Nelson introduced himself to the Thomson City Council and gave a brief update/report of activities and plans for the Thomson Police Department.

Revolving Loan Application – Dozier Builders:

The Revolving Loan committee met on April 8, 2010 to consider a UDAG loan request in the amount of \$70,000 from Dozier Builders for the purpose of building two single family homes on

two small lots in the Martin Luther King Jr. Street area. The loan would be a fifteen year amortization loan with a 3.5% interest rate. The Loan Committee approved the request and recommended approval by Council.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the recommendation from the Revolving Loan Committee to grant the loan to Dozier Builders for \$70,000. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried by all.

#### Employee Raises:

City Administrator Powers gave a report on the first quarter financial reports for the City of Thomson. Mr. Powers recommended that since the reports were favorable, a 1.5 % cost of living raise be given to all employees and an equity adjustment be distributed among the Police and the Fire Department personnel. He also reported that \$88,000 was the total impact of this recommendation if approved on Jan 1. Since the implementation will take place in April the net effect on the 2010 budget will be approximately \$52,000.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the recommendation of the City Administrator to raise the City of Thomson workers by 1 \_ percent cost of living with the equity adjustment given to the Police and Fire Departments. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### Gas Line Replacement:

Chuck Cason, the Gas Department Director reported that several gas lines are to be replaced on "A", "B" and "C" streets. This is due to an order by the Public Safety Commission to replace these types of plastic lines and as per Federal regulations; these lines are to be updated in order for our gas system to stay in compliance.

Councilmember Jones moved to replace the gas lines, followed by a second from Councilmember Lunceford. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Leadership McDuffie will have their first annual 5K Spirit race on Saturday, June 12, 2010. They are requesting traffic control for Hickory Hill. Mayor Usry gave them the okay to proceed.

Railroad Street will be paved during 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 from Greenway down to the back side of the government site. The ARRA funds have to be spent by June 30.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Dianne L. Landers

City Clerk