

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 8, 2011

6:30PM

City Hall

Present:

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

Also Present:

Mike Carrington	R. Steve McGahee
Janice Hobbs	Bobby Aldred
Alton Davis, Sr	Allen L. Axon
Wyman Clark	Monnie Hicks
Ray Silverstein	Judson Story
James Taylor	Bonnie McCorkle
Donna Stillinger	Brian Graves
Claudia Kelley	Garth Snow
Buddy Kelley	Joyce Garner
Bill McCord	Sean Kelley
J. McGahee	Mary McGahee

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of September 8, 2011. The invocation was given by City Attorney Plunkett, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

PRESENTATION:

Mike Carrington, Economic Development Director gave a presentation to the City Council on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber would like to sponsor another automotive "Drift" Event to be held at the airport. The first event of this type was held in June 2011 at the Thomson-McDuffie Airport. Mr. Carrington explained how the "Drift" event brought revenue to the Chamber of Commerce as well as Spirit Aviation. The desire of the Chamber is to sponsor a second event in October 2011 provided the Council (and the Commission) approve.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the "Drift" event in October 2011, Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried; with stipulations...the committee may need to adjust to the D.O.T. airport paving project and the residents who live around the area need to be made aware that the event will be held, in case there are a significant number of concerns about noise, etc.

The second issue Mr. Carrington brought to the Council was the request to hold the annual "Jack O' Lanterns on Journal". This event would be during the entire month of October 2011. The Chamber would also like approval for a street dance to be held on October 8 at the parking lot on First Ave and Church Street toward the railroad tracks.....behind the McDuffie Arts Council building on Main Street. Councilmember Jones moved to approve the "Jack O' Lanterns on Journal" for October 2011 and to close the parking lot for the Street dance. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2011, followed by a second from Councilmember Lunceford. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval 2012 Budget, including millage rate.

The City of Thomson 2012 total budget of \$19,995,476.00 was presented for approval along with the property tax millage rate of 5.399.

Councilmember Jones moved to approve and adopt the 2012 budget as presented. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion.

Water-Sewer Commission meeting August 30, 2011.

In the recent Water-Sewer Commission of August 30, 2011, discussions about water and sewer rates were held again. The discussions ended with Charlie Newton making the following motion, which was approved by the Water Sewer Commission. The motion states....."I move that the monthly sewer rates in McDuffie County be leveled at a \$6.50 ready-to-serve fee and \$3.25 per thousand gallons of usage for residential customers and \$10.00 ready-to-serve fee and \$3.25 per thousand gallons of usage for commercial and industrial customers. To make this leveling possible I add to this motion that approximately \$965,000 of sewer system debt be paid off using funding from McDuffie County accounts set aside for water-sewer purposes. The motion recognizes that the amount available to pay off debt is an estimate and will have to be confirmed or calculated."

Mr. Ray Silverstein spoke on behalf of the Citizens from Dearing concerning the ready to service fee paid by the Town of Dearing.

Councilmember Belton moved to table the rate increase for 90 days until the City and County and the Water-Sewer Commission has time to discuss the history of the outstanding debt (and grants) along with current balances, what debt could be paid with reserve funds, etc.

Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Vote: (3) yea; (2) opposes. Motion carries by majority.

2011 CDBG Award.

The City of Thomson has been awarded another \$800,000 multi activity CDBG grant to continue our work in the Pitt Street area.

Speed Hump Policy.

Mayor Usry presented the Speed Hump Policy Proposal for approval. The objective is to provide a process whereby property owners in subdivisions or neighborhood areas may request the installation of speed humps on city residential streets(s). For a request to be considered, the requirements set forth in this Policy must be met.

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

Election, November 8, 2011.

There will be an election on November 8, 2011 in the City of Thomson. The following seats are having opposition: Mayor and Councilmember of District 2A.

Tree City Designation Proposal.

The City of Thomson has been asked to consider becoming a designated Tree City, certified by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

This will be explored and presented at a later date by the City Administrator.

Fire Pumper not meeting ISO requirements:

We are required by ISO to have three (3) pumpers in service. At present time, we have four (4) in service; however, the 1989 pumper is in need of a new pump. This pumper is used as a spare.

Fire Chief Sewell is asking for permission to repair the pumper which is estimated \$7,200 - \$8,000. This would come from contingency.

Councilmember Smalley moved to give the Fire Chief permission to repair the 1989 pumper and that the funds \$8,000 are taken from the General Fund Contingency. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Animal Control Board re-appointment:

Darrell Wester has been re-appointed by the City to serve for another three (3) years on the Animal Control Board.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the re-appointment, followed by a second from Councilmember Belton. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Revolving Loan Review Committee appointment.

The following members were appointed to replace two members of the Revolving Loan review committee:

Freda Baker will replace Glenn Howell of Regions Bank.

Juddie Johnson will replace Doug Pentecost of Queensborough Bank.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the appointment of the two new members, seconded by Councilmember Brown. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

Work will begin next week on the additional parking area between Railroad Street and the railroad tracks. Robertson Grading will do the work. The only requirements of us, regarding the project, would be to haul out any soil that isn't suitable as sub-grade. The only thing not included in the parking lot bid will be the decorative streetlights. We are getting pricing on these now.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Dianne Landers
City Clerk