

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 13, 2011

6:30PM

City Hall

Present:

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

Also Present:

Billy Hobbs, McD Mirror
Donna Branch, WTHO
Danielle Everson, McD. Progress

Absent:

Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of January 13, 2011. Usry asked for a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Boone Knox and Mr. Robert Brown, Jr. (Councilmember Smalley's Brother in Law), both of whom passed away recently.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Smalley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Presentation:

Bruce Bagnasco of Keck and Wood gave a brief Gas System Report. Keck and Wood has loaded a computer model of our system into a software program at their office, allowing simulation of live gas system conditions. The purpose is to troubleshoot potential system failures and weaknesses in order to plan prevention. Bruce pointed out that initial modeling indicates that we could have a potential bottleneck for gas supply to the Northern part of our system, which could be resolved with an additional high pressure line, running from the City Barn out to an area close to Regions Bank on the Washington Road. More testing will be needed in order to confirm the initial assessment and then a decision can be made on what action to take and when. This should occur over the next few months and then a recommendation will be brought back to Council.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2010 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Belton. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution to Partner with the Georgia Department of Revenue to ensure proper payment of Sales Taxes.
The Georgia Department of Revenue is asking Cities and Counties to collect and submit certain information to enable them to ensure that businesses are properly compliant with state and local sales tax laws. A resolution must be passed in order to start this collaboration with the DOR.
Councilmember Belton moved to approve the Resolution with the Georgia Department of Revenue. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

2010 Final Budget Amendment:

City Administrator Powers presented amendments necessary for the final balance to the 2010 budget.

- General Fund increase and decrease in Revenue and Expense by \$15,797.00.
- Water Fund decrease and increase in Revenue and Expenses by \$45,980.00.
- Gas Fund decrease in Revenue and Expenses by \$284,548.00 due to Gas Sales and Purchases.
- Solid Waste increase in Revenue and Expenses by \$65,480.00. Transfer from Gas fund to cover increase in Disposal cost.
- Maintenance Department decrease in Revenue and Expenses by \$8,500.00

Councilmember Jones moved to approve 2010 final Budget Amendments. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Renew of Contract with Lucy Bell.

Lucy Bell, the appointed Public Defender for the City of Thomson, has an annual contract to provide legal services for those in City Court who need representation. The contract is up for renewal.

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the renewal of Ms Bell's contract for another year.

Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Beer and Wine Application for BP Food Mart:

The BP Food Mart located at 418 Jackson Street has applied for an Alcoholic Beverage (Beer and Wine) License.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the application for the beer and wine license, seconded by Councilmember Lunceford. All were in favor except one (1) Councilmember Smalley who abstained. Motion carried by majority.

2011 Municipal Court Judge Appointment:

Mayor Usry stated that a bill is up for consideration in the Georgia legislature stating that Municipal Court Judges shall be appointed attorneys. He further recommended that the City Council go ahead and appoint an attorney and that our present Municipal Court Judge, David Moore's contract be allowed to expire at the end of the first (1st) quarter. Recommended for the appointment by Mayor Usry for Municipal Court Judge is local attorney, Bob Knox, Jr.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the appointment of an attorney, to let the contract with current Judge David Moore expire at the end of the 1st quarter, and to allow the nomination of Bob Knox Jr. to go forward as Moore's replacement. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

The County Road Department is putting in the road for access to the new Augusta Tech classroom, adjacent to the airport. Augusta Tech has put the building out for bids and the plan is to have it complete by the beginning of the fall semester, 2011. This project will be a great addition to the airport complex.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Dianne Landers
City Clerk