

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 10, 2011

6:30PM

CITY HALL

Present:

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

Absent:

John Smalley, Councilmember

Also Present:

Mike Popplewell
George T. Nichols
Ruby Marsh
Katie L. Hoats
Vickie Tector
Lewis Hoats
Bob Howard
Fred Guerrant
Danielle Evers, McD. Progress
Anthony Pool
Alan Futchner
G. Bassett
Teresa McClellan
Garth Snow
Jennifer Lampkin
Donna Branch, WTHO

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2011. The invocation was given by the Mayor, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mr. Bobby Hutto, an employee with the City of Thomson Water Treatment Facilities was presented with a plaque and a monetary gift. Mr. Hutto has given 10 years of faithful service as an employee with the City of Thomson.

Bob Howard, Director of the Thomson-McDuffie Recreation Department gave an update on the skateboard ramp/park in the Pitts Street area. This project includes the skate park as well as other features that will enhance the whole park....paving, another basketball court, and road/driveway upgrades.

Mr. Brink Bradshaw of Bradshaw Realty presented two proposal/projects...the first one on behalf of Mr. Tim Camp for a 50'x50' building to house a Verizon Wireless Store. This store, when (and if) built, will be on the same lot where the old restaurant, Grubby's is located. Approximately 40 ft of this property is in the City limits. There were no real zoning or planning decisions to be made, The City of Thomson Planning Board has recommended approval of this proposal, and this presentation was for information only.

Second, Mr. Bradshaw presented on behalf of Mr. Roger Green, the owner of approximately 15 acres of property (Old McNeil Box Factory property) that has been zoned as commercial by the City. Mr. Bradshaw is requesting city assistance on building a roadway through this property in order to divide the property into 10 or more commercial parcels.

This is for information only and will be brought back before the board for future discussion and plans.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2011 regular Council Meeting. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Probation Services Contract Presentations:

Both vendors below made presentations to the Council on their qualifications to handle the City's probation services business.

∞CSRA Probation Services, owner Mike Popplewell –

- Probation service contract with City for last 5 years.
- In continual operations since 1997.
- Provides services for 55 Georgia Courts, and 22 Municipal Courts.
- Office is open 5 days per week.

∞Client Management Systems, Inc, owner Teresa McClellan-

- Monthly reports will be submitted to the City by the 5th day of the following month.
- Waives supervision fees for active military.
- Smaller caseload limit.
- Bi-lingual officer available for Spanish speaking clients.
- Flexible reporting schedules for those placed on probation.

Councilmember Belton moved to continue with CSRA Probation Services for three (3) years. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Residents complaints concerning property on King St, Heckle St, Howard St and Pineview.

Mr. Lewis Hoats, spokesperson for concerned residents in the above areas gave a synopsis of the problem located in this area. The problems of concern are warehouses of all colors, shapes, built of subpar construction by Mr. Greg Shealy. The residents are concerned about their property values, termites, rodents, and the general unsightliness of this type of storage building in a residential area. (Pictures were distributed and given to the Mayor).

Mayor Usry assured that the City of Thomson will do everything possible to get this area cleaned up.

Revolving Loan Committee Recommendation:

The Revolving Loan Committee met on March 3, 2011. Two State Construction Company has requested an EIP Loan in the amount of \$250,000. Two State has been awarded primary supplier status for Hill Phoenix of Covington, GA. They will be manufacturing the steel base frame for their solar power centers with volume projected at 300 frames in this calendar year. The loan would be a ten (10) year

amortization loan, and the interest rate will be at 3%. The loan documents will include personal guarantees from each Two State owner.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the recommendation from the Revolving Loan Committee for an EIP Loan in the amount of \$250,000.00 to Two State Construction. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Board Appointment –Revolving Loan:

Mr. George Lokey, Chairman has resigned from the Revolving Loan Committee on the occasion of his retirement. Mayor Usry has recommended Mrs. Renee Wright, vice president from 1st Bank (George's replacement) to serve on the board.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the recommendation of Mrs. Renee' Wright, seconded by Councilmember Brown. All were in favor. Motion carried.

City of Ethics Resolution:

The City of Thomson has issued an updated resolution to the Georgia Municipal Association for recertification as a Certified City of Ethics. This is a requirement from GMA to the governing body to re-adopt the five ethics principles. Cities that have been certified more than four years are required to re-certify before May 2011. Councilmember Brown moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Jones. Motion carried by all.

CDBG 2011 Application-Resolution:

The governing authority of the City of Thomson authorizes the filing of a Community Development Block Grant application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Pitts Street Revitalization Strategy Area. Additionally a resolution authorizes and directs the Mayor, Kenneth Usry to act as the official representative for the City of Thomson.

Councilmember Brown moved to approve the filing of a CDBG application to the Georgia DCA and the resolution. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Street Closing for Car Show:

The Thomson-McDuffie Chamber of Commerce will have their annual Car Show on April 20, 2011. They would like to close the following streets:

∞Railroad Street from Main Street to the Thomson-McDuffie Government Complex

∞Greenway Street from Hughes Furniture Store to the Railroad tracks.

The event hours are 7:00am until 4:00pm.

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

DISCUSSION

The heating and air conditioning units (2 each) at the Chamber office recently had to be replaced. Three Bids were received and are listed. All were close, but the warranty differences were the deciding factor in the decision to accept Duggan Heating and Air.

- Duggan, \$10,504 – 1 year labor, 10 years parts and lifetime warranty on compressors and heat exchanges.
- Pool, \$9200 – 10 year warranty on the compressor and parts, 1 year labor. No mention of heat exchanger.
- Dozier, \$10,600 – 10 year parts, no mention on labor.

The experience with routine and emergency service regarding Duggan's performance versus the other two bidders was favorable as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Belton moved to close regular meeting and to open into executive session for the purpose of personnel issues. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion.

Councilmember Brown moved to adjourn the executive session, second by Councilmember Lunceford. All were in favor. Executive session closed and meeting closed.

Dianne Landers
City Clerk