

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 12, 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
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney
Dianne Landers, City Clerk

Also Present:

Brenda Lancaster
Robert E. Lancaster
Garth Snow, McD Mirror
Mike Ayers
Patrick Morgan
Danielle Everson, McD Progress
Donna Branch, WTHO
Rick Sewell
Phil Eberly
Lauren Crosby
Willie Pinkston
David Thigpen
Ron Toney

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of May 12, 2011. The invocation was given by City Administrator Don Powers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

The City of Thomson recognized two employees for ten (10) years of faithful service as City of Thomson employees. David Thigpen presently works in the Solid Waste Department but has worked also for the Gas Department, and Ronald Toney, who works as a hydrant technician in the Water Treatment Department, but started with the Fire Department. Both were presented a plaque and a monetary gift.

Mrs. Brenda Lancaster, a resident of Thomson, presented the Council with a plea to close Sanderlin Street. This street is located between First Avenue and Victory Square. Mrs. Lancaster mentioned that she was not previously aware of the street, was trying to sell her property, and a patio attached to her house "sits" on the street. This prevents her from having a clear title. The appropriate way to abandon or close a street stipulates that all adjoining property owners must agree to the street closing/abandonment in order for it take place. Two of the property owners did not agree to closing of the street; therefore, the City of Thomson could not take any action.

Mr. Mike Ayers, Thomson GBI, presented their proposal for the property where the old Georgia State Patrol building is located. The future plans, when funded, are to remove the old building and place a new Georgia Bureau of Investigation complex on the land. Financing would be solely provided by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. He asked the Council for a draft resolution that states they the City would deed this property to GBI (State), with the State allowing the property ownership to revert back to us as ½ owners (County owns the other ½), if and when the State had no further use for the property and improvements. The resolution in draft form would not be binding or legal, but would signal to the State that negotiations had commenced. Council agreed that they support the project and would provide a draft resolution. ***(Sent to them the next day, with copy to Mr.***

Plunkett)

MINUTES:

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2011 Regular Council Meeting, followed by a second from Councilmember Smalley. Minutes approved.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of the Call Meeting of April 21, 2011, followed by a second from Councilmember Brown. Minutes approved.

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the minutes of the Call Meeting of April 25, 2011, followed by a second from Councilmember Smalley. Minutes approved by all.

NEW BUSINESS:

Airport Runway Overlay Bids – W.K. Dickson:

Mr. Phil Eberly with W.K. Dickson presented the results of the bids to complete the runway re-paving at our airport. Reeves Construction was the low bidder at \$1,710,980.00. There will also be some costs associated with engineering (reimbursement identical to construction) and the estimated total cost of the project is around \$1,800,000. The funding for this overlay would come from FAA (95%), State DOT with 2.5%, and local match with 2.5%. The local portion would come from SPLOST V funds that were earmarked for airport run way overlay.

Councilmember Belton moved to sign the contract with the Department of Transportation for the Airport.

Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the low bid of Reeves Construction and Paving and sign the contract with Reeves Construction as well as W.K. Dickson for the Airport runway project. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisory Changes for Solid Waste and Wastewater Departments:

Waste Water Supervisor

Mr. Charles Montgomery retired on April 29th, after 39 years with the City of Thomson.

The vacancy was posted and there were four applications. One was selected and he rescinded his application at the last minute. Mr. Lamar Fain, who is a class 1 operator and has assisted Mr. Montgomery, was also one of the applicants. We offered and he agreed to be named the interim Supervisor, at an hourly rate of \$20.50. Decisions on whether to make Mr Fain permanent could come as early as 6 months, but that time frame is not guaranteed.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to accept the recommendation, followed by a second from Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Solid Waste Supervisor

Calvin Leggett has been performing as interim solid waste Supervisor for several months. Mr. Powers recommended Council approve Mr. Leggett as Solid Waste Supervisor and at a salary equivalent to \$17.45 per hour.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the recommendation of Mr. Leggett, seconded by Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. Motion carried.

City of Thomson/City of Harlem – Intergovernmental Agreement:

Rick Sewell presented a proposed City of Thomson and City of Harlem intergovernmental agreement, governing the use of the Fire Training Facility by the Harlem Fire Department. This agreement states the Thomson Fire Rescue desires to make available for shared use by the City of Harlem and Harlem Public Safety, Thomson Fire's training facility. The use agreement is very close to the one we have in force with McDuffie County. Mayor Usry asked that we ensure that McDuffie County Fire was OK with the use of this facility by others, since we have a shared use agreement with McDuffie County.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Thomson and the City of Harlem. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Classroom for Fire Department Training Facility:

The City of Harlem owns a double-wide office that they formerly used for EMS training. The building has been inspected and found to be ideal for the classroom space we need and Chief Sewell recommends it be used for that purpose at our Fire Department Training facility. Harlem has agreed to give us the double-wide at no cost. The moving expense will be covered out of the Fire Department's 2011 capital budget line for the Training Facility. Rick also was to have Peter Ruddick take a look at the building to ensure that we were getting a building in good shape. The Fire Chief also explained that he has started working with the County to get the Forest Clary Extension entrance cleared for sewer line installation, future entrance road, and parking.

Councilmember Smalley moved to authorize the Fire Chief to move forward with the expenditure. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Police/Fire Uniform Cleaning Bids:

The following bids for the Police and Fire Department uniforms were received:

J & J Colonial Cleaners	<u>Uniform cleaning</u>
310 Greenway St	3.95

White House Cleaners	
235 East Hill St	5.65

J & J Colonial Cleaners were the lowest bidder. Home Laundry and Cleaners did not bid. Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the low bid from J & J Colonial, followed by a second from Councilmember Lunceford. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Training for Department Heads:

City Administrator Don Powers presented the Council with the Supervisor Training Modules from the Carl Vinson Institute at UGA. The cost is \$8500 for up to 20 participants. Classes will begin in July if approved by the Council. Councilmember Jones moved to approve the Supervisor Training classes for the Department Heads not to exceed \$8500. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr Willie Pinkston addressed the Council with a couple of issues he wanted the City to help with...one was a sewer problem along Holt Street that we are/were already working on. He also requested that we look into doing some stream maintenance along Sills Branch in the section that runs from Holt Street to Harrison Road.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Councilmember Lunceford moved for Council to open into Executive Session, followed by Councilmember Belton. Motion carried.

Council met in Executive Session for the following purpose: Personnel. No action was taken.

Councilmember Smalley moved to close the Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Lunceford. Motion carried.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Dianne Landers
City Clerk