

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 13, 2011

6:30PM

City Hall

Present:

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

Also Present:

Linda Green, McD. Progress
Ray Silverstein
Brink Bradshaw
Donna Stillinger, WTHO
Garth Snow, The Mirror
James Taylor, Jr

Absent:

Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of October 13, 2011. The invocation was given by Councilmember Smalley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

The City of Thomson recognized Junnie Samuels with the Water Department for a total of 30 years of service as an employee with the City. Junnie officially retired on September 30, 2011. He was presented a plaque and a monetary token.

Ms. Linda Grijalva was recognized as being responsible in securing over 3.5 million dollars in grants for the City of Thomson. Ms. Grijalva was presented a camellia print.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2011, followed by a second from Councilmember Belton. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Accounting /Consultation Services – Barmore & Hammond and Elliott Davis:

Barmore and Hammond and Elliott Davis sent letters of engagement for accounting and audit preparation services/final audit services.

Barmore and Hammond has a long relationship with the City is knowledgeable in our enterprise funds, as well as various Grant accounting requirements that are usually necessary each year. There is no increase in rates/fees.

As a result of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, we are required to have our annual audits done by a firm that is independent of any firm who has helped prepare yearend financial information. We have been using Elliot Davis for this purpose for the last five years.

Both have submitted letters of engagement to continue their contract for an additional five years at no change in the fee schedule.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve Barmore and Hammond and Elliott Davis for our Accounting-Consultation Services for five years. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Gas Emergency Valve Bid Insertion:

Chuck Cason, Gas Superintendent has requested bids on an approved 2011 capital expenditure for new valve installations at Thiele Kaolin. The valves allow isolation of certain areas for future maintenance and/or emergency shutdowns. The bids were as follows:

CJ Hodge Enterprizes	\$11,850.00
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Harrison Gas Systems	\$14,068.35
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The recommendation is to accept the low bid from CJ Hodge Enterprizes of \$11,850.00 and the funding will come from the approved capital budget line for valves of \$10,000 and the remainder of \$1850 to be paid from the High Pressure Distribution Main capital line items.

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

Approval of Veterans Day Holiday and a Floating Holiday:

In our review of the personnel policies, there is a discrepancy between what the County allows and what the City allows regarding paid holidays. McDuffie County has Veteran's Day and an extra day during the Christmas Holidays. The City has agreed on Veteran's Day, but does not want to close the City operations for three days during the Christmas Holidays; therefore McDuffie County has agreed to eliminate the day after Christmas and add a Floating Holiday to be taken during the work year. This will place the City and County on the same Holiday schedule.

Our recommendation is to approve Veterans Day as an additional holiday for the City in 2011 and to make the benefit equal by adding both Veteran's Day in 2011 and the Floating Holiday beginning in January 2012.

Councilmember Brown moved to approve the recommendation of the holidays, followed by a second from Councilmember Belton. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Street Closure for Festival off Main Activities:

October 27, 2011 – Journal Street for the Halloween Bash from 4pm – 9pm.

December 1, 2011 – Railroad Street from Main St to Greenway Street on both sides. Christmas tree lighting.

December 3, 2011 – Railroad Street from Main Street to Greenway Street from Journal Street to the Railroad Tracks on both sides.

December 4, 2011 – Main Street from Norris Elementary School to Jackson Street right on West Hill Street to the IGA Shopping Center.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the street closings for the Festival off Main activities. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CDBG Grant 11b-x-094-2-5380:

Councilperson Bernice Brown lives in the target area affected by our new 2011 CDBG Grant. This fact precludes Ms. Brown from voting on or making any official decisions pertaining to grant activities of 2011 CDBG Grant, 11b-x-094-2-5380. Thomson City Councilperson, Ms. Brown is not eligible for any housing rehab assistance funded by this grant and will receive the same benefits as all of the other residents in this areas regarding drainage and sanitary sewer improvements installed as an activity of this grant.

This document was discussed in open session of Council meeting, dated October 13, 2011.

DISCUSSION:

The 2010 CDBG infrastructure work on Dixie Drive is underway with good progress to report. The engineering for the recently awarded 2011 CDBG will be complete by March. The 2011 award targets the Bussey Avenue area for sewer and storm water improvements.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Dianne Landers
City Clerk