

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

July 10, 2008

6:30PM

CITY HALL

Present

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

Also Present

David Ruehle
Epp Wilson
Billy Hobbs, the McD. Mirror
Julia Wesley, Ombudsman Ed. Ser.
Shellie Smith, CVS Pharmacy
Virginia Bradshaw
Janet Wilson
Glenn Wilson
Rick Sewell
Chris Reynolds
Scott Campbell
Fred Guerrant
Jim Wallace, McDuffie Progress
Laurie Hobbs
Jennifer Quarles
John Wacua

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council meeting of July 10, 2008. The invocation was given by Councilmember Smalley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PRESENTATION:

Four employees were recognized for 10 years of service with the City of Thomson. They were Guite "Eddie" Fell of the Maintenance Department, Christopher Reynolds of the Fire Department, Don Hilson of the Police Department and Laurie Hobbs of the Administration Department. They all are great employees and received a certificate along with a monetary award.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on June 12, 2008. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Loan Request for MANNA:

On July 3, 2008 the City's Revolving Loan Committee met with Robert Flanders, who serves as the treasurer of MANNA. Mr. Flanders requested for a UDAG loan in order to finance a portion of the purchase of new facilities for Manna at 451 East Hill Street. The loan request amount is \$100,000.00 for three years with an interest rate of 2%. Councilmember Belton moved to approve the request as presented, seconded by Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. The motion was carried by all.

Resolution – Sale of Alcohol Beverages on Sunday:

This resolution authorizes a vote in November on the general election ballot regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises on Sunday in the City of Thomson. If passed, it will allow the sale of alcoholic beverages to be sold for consumption on premises, Sunday from 12:30 p.m. until 12:00 midnight, in any licensed establishment which derives at least 50 percent of its total annual gross sales from the sale of prepared meals or food and in any establishment which derives at least 50 percent of its total annual gross income from the rental of rooms for overnight lodging. Councilmember Belton moved to accept the resolution and that it be submitted the Election Superintendent. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. Councilmember Smalley abstained. All others voted in favor of the motion. Motion was carried.

Resolution of Transmittal:

This resolution allows for the transmittal of the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program sections of the Joint Thomson/McDuffie County Comprehensive Plan Update to the Central Savannah River Area Regional Development Center. Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution Fire Department:

This resolution shall give the Fire Department the authority to perform and/or coordinate all rescue type functions within the City of Thomson including, but not limited to, Vehicle Extrication, High Angle Rescue, Water Rescue, and Confined Space Rescue. Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the resolution for the Fire Department. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Conditional Use Approvals Kakika Moss – Forrest Clary Drive:

Planning Director, Fred Guerrant presented an application from Kakika Moss requesting a conditional use review for a proposed commercial child daycare center on Forrest Clary Drive. The site is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Forrest Clary Drive and Salem Road. The proposed site is currently zoned R-2 (Multi-Family). The proposed building would 3,120 sq. ft. building of block and stone and associated paved parking and outdoor recreation area. The Planning board recommended conditional

approval of the use of the proposed site for a daycare only, that any entrance and exit to the site be on Forrest Clary Drive, that the building be of block and stone and that it be complimentary to the surrounding residential neighborhood.

Mayor Usry suggested that the conditional use variance require brick facades on all sides and that a storm water plan is drawn and reviewed before any building permits are issued. Councilmember Jones moved to accept the above mentioned recommendations from the Planning Commission and the Mayor. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion was carried by all.

Ombudsman Tutorial Service – IGA Shopping Center:

Mr. Guerrant entertained an application from Mr. Bob Wilson on behalf of Ombudsman Tutorial Service requesting a Conditional Use Review for the use of a storefront in the Thomson Plaza (IGA) Shopping Center (W. Hill St.) for the tutoring of students. It was explained that the former Crossroads Alternative Learning Center had been “privatized” so to speak, and that Ombudsman had contracted with the McDuffie County Board of Education to take over the service.

Since the learning center/tutorial service would not be allowed on school property it was Ombudsman’s request to be allowed to locate in the shopping center. Mr. Guerrant informed the Board that he had received a concerned inquiry from one of the current shopping center tenants regarding the application. Ms. Edmunds, with the tutorial service, addressed the Board explaining that the hours of the service would be from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during which time there would be three class sessions (morning, after lunch, and afternoon) with each session having approximately twenty (20) students for study lasting about 2-3 hours. During this time there would be four staff members to tutor the students and also to make sure that there was no inappropriate behavior at the site. The Planning Board passed a conditional use variance; with stipulation that during the first year the tutorial service be monitored to obtain any feedback as to any negative effect on the shopping center and that this could have an impact on allowing them to remain in the center in future years.

John Wacha (Asst. V. President-Ombudsman) spoke of the day to day operations of the learning centers in Georgia, which number 38.

Concerns were voiced about the bus with the children being dropped off in the shopping center, along with bikes and additional cars in the area. Also, Scott Campbell (merchant) spoke on behalf of the merchants who were (according to him) not in favor of Ombudsman locating in the shopping center.

Speaking for the project was Virginia Bradshaw, school board Chair. She stated that she had visited a site and was very impressed. Further she stated that it is not the intent of the school board to create a problem with the merchants, and that she did not see a potential problem with the buses and transportation.

Also speaking on behalf of the project was Epp Wilson, one of the shopping center owners. He stated that he had contacted merchants in other towns where Ombudsman Services are located and all gave glowing reports except one, which did not blame problems specifically on the school.

After a lengthy discussion between the citizens, Board of Education members, and merchants, Councilmember Lunceford moved to not accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission and deny the application from Bob Wilson on behalf of the

Ombudsman Tutorial Service. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

Approval of Bid Proposal – City Hall Roof:

Thomson Roofing and Metal Company \$54,865.00

Modern Roofing and Metal Works, Inc. \$72,500.00

Approved budget amendment to cover this expense was \$75,000.00.

City Administrator Don Powers recommended Thomson Roofing and Metal Company. Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the recommendation of Thomson Roofing and Metal Company. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Board Appointments, Water-Sewer Commission – Replace John Wiley:

Clifford (Bud) Lunceford replaces John Wiley

Board Reappointment, Water-Sewer Commission – George Lokey:

George Lokey is reappointed to serve for another four years term to end June 2011.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the appointment and reappointment of the water sewer commission members, seconded by Councilmember Belton.

Councilmember Lunceford abstained from voting. All others were in favor. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

City Administrator Don Powers reported that...

- City of Thomson received \$50,000 in the form of a RBEG grant from USDA for parking improvements behind the Post Office building.
- Lee Ann Cowart has been named to the City/County Complex Committee.
- July 24, 2008 will be an Organizational meeting of Pine Hills citizens.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk