

CITY OF THOMSON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
September 13, 2007

7:30PM

CITY HALL

Present

Robert E. Knox, Jr. Mayor  
Alton Belton, Councilmember  
Kenneth Usry, Councilmember  
John Smalley, Councilmember  
J.T. Wiley, Councilmember  
Jay Jones, Councilmember  
Don Powers, City Administrator  
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney  
Dianne Landers, City Clerk

Also Present

Tim Zay  
Fred Guerrant  
Jim Wallace, McD. Progress  
Cyndie Locklear  
Delena Reese  
Richard Dozier  
Dick Dozier  
Billy Hobbs, McD. Mirror  
Donna Branch, WTHO  
Bea Hart-Moss  
Bud Lunceford

Mayor Knox welcomed all and called the Regular Council meeting for September 2007 to order. The invocation was given by Councilmember John Smalley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of August 9, 2007 and the Special Call meeting of August 30, 2007 to approve the 2008 budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smalley. The motion was carried by all.

**OLD BUSINESS**

In the August 9, 2007 Regular Council meeting, Rev. Don Jackson, Vice President of Special Programs with the NAACP gave a presentation on the Safety Check program. This is a new program that provides daily telephone calling to all enrolled citizens, mainly seniors to check on their well being daily. The Council agreed to take a look into the references before making a decision to accept or decline. Mayor Knox and Don Powers contacted several cities that were currently enrolled in this program to get their feedback. The reference checks were mostly positive. Our annual cost to sign would be \$6,040.00. This would be an upfront payment. If accepted the funds would come from contingency.

Councilmember Belton moved that we try the Safety Check program for one year at a cost of \$6,040.00, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. The motion carried, 3 to 2.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Zoning Change on Leslie Street-Richard Dozier:

Mr. Dozier is requesting a change in zoning on the north side of Leslie Street, which is R-1a (Medium Density Residential) to B-1(Business).

The Planning Board recommended a conditional approval to the rezoning from R-1a to B-1 for that portion of property on the north side of Leslie, with the exception of the area to the west of Pounds Street. The approval is subject to the rear buffer not being disturbed and that when the front half, (north side) of the property is developed, the type and nature of the development must receive prior approval by the Planning Board.

Councilmember Usry moved to accept the recommendations from the Planning Board, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. Motion carried unanimously.

### Approval to pave First Avenue Lot (beside Railroad):

This is the property south of First Avenue, just off Main Street. The project includes curb and gutter, sidewalks and asphalt, with a section left open for a structure to be built around the old city well. The cost is estimated up to \$45,000.00 and will be paid from gas funds.

There was a motion by Councilmember Smalley to approve the project not to exceed \$45,000 in cost, seconded by Councilmember Wiley. Motion carried by all.

### 2008 Budget Resolution:

A resolution to adopt the 2008 Budget for the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008. Councilmember Belton moved to adopt the budget resolution, seconded by Councilmember Usry. Motion carried.

### Annexation of property on Washington Road and Deans Avenue:

This is the second reading on Ordinance #531 Washington Road and Deans Avenue annexation into the city limits of Thomson. Mr. Tim Zay, a representative of Walgreen's store was present. Walgreens has a contract to purchase property on the corner of Harrison and Washington Roads, which is part of the annexation.

Councilmember Usry approved the annexation of property spelled out in Ordinance #534, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. Motion carried unanimously.

### Adoption of Historic Preservation District:

The Council opened a discussion on a revised map of the historic district which was originally presented by the Thomson Historic Preservation commission on the first reading of an ordinance to establish such a district. Mayor Knox explained that a public hearing was held on the proposed district and that the map before the council contained changes that were made as a result of the hearing and input received from Citizens. He also gave a detailed description of the new district, outlining deletions/additions.

Deletions included particular properties where petitions were received from citizen groups asking that an area be excluded from the proposed district. These included the

Thomas Avenue/Grier Circle area and additional area in Hickory Hills subdivision. Richard Dozier also request that property he and his family owned on Ansley Drive also be removed.

A lengthy discussion on the various requests along with the new revised map ensued. Councilmember Belton moved that the amended map (further revised to remove the Dozier Property, to remove area North of Lee Street (Hickory Hills subdivision), and to remove certain properties as discussed on Thomas Avenue and Grier Circle) be approved as the seconded reading of the ordinance establishing the Thomson Historic District. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Usry. The motion carried 4 to 1. A revised detailed map and general description are attached as a part of these minutes.

Banner requests – Chamber Golf Tournament and the play, “Heaven’s Gates, Hell’s Flames” at New Hope Baptist:

The Thomson-McDuffie Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on September 25, 2007 at Belle Meade Country Club. They are requesting that the banner be hung Monday, September 17-24, 2007.

New Hope Baptist Church will be presenting the dramatization of “Heaven’s Gates, Hell’s Flames”. They are requesting the banner to be hung October 8-16, 2007.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept both banner requests, seconded by Councilmember Jones. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Pat Mahoney, long-time employee at Chasman and Associates and now O’Brien and Gere, will be leaving the firm at the end of October. Our new contact, in addition to Robin Chasman, will be Jerry Oberholtzer.

Don Powers and Kenneth Usry went to Savannah last week and picked up the award packages for the new CHIP grants. This is new grant money, similar to CDBG funding, to be used for rehabilitation of homes in the Pitt Street and Strawberry Hill areas of the City and the County. The amount awarded to the City and the County combined is approximately \$750,000.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Dianne L. Landers  
City Clerk