

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 11, 2007**

7:30PM

CITY HALL

PRESENT

Robert E. Knox, Jr., Mayor
Kenneth Usry, Councilmember
Alton Belton, Councilmember
Mike Carrington, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Robert L. Flanders, City Administrator
Dianne L. Landers, City Clerk

Absent

J.T. Wiley, Councilmember
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

ALSO PRESENT

Peter J. Ruddick, Director, St & SW
Jim Wallace, McDuffie Progress
Jessie Cody
Patricia Cody
Taylor B. Cody
Alexis Cody
Brandon Cody
Damion Cody
Mike Wall, WTWA/WTHO
Jarvis McNair
Jason Smith, McDuffie Mirror
Harry and Moral Johnson
Shane and Nikki Taylor

Mayor Knox welcomed all present. Mayor remained everyone that Councilmember Wiley was under the weather and asked for prayers for him. Councilmember Kenneth Usry offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A proclamation was presented to Harry T. Johnson for 32 years of continual service with the Street and Solid Waste Department. Councilmember Kenneth Usry moved to accept the presentation of this proclamation to Harry T. Johnson, seconded by Councilmember John Smalley. Motion carried.

A proclamation presented to the Family of Taylor Sam (T.S.) Cody for 27 years of dedicated service with the Street and Solid Waste Department. T.S. had been retired from the City of Thomson since 1986 and passed away on October 27, 2006.

MINUTES

Councilmember Alton Belton moved to approve the minutes of the Special Call Meeting on December 14, 2006, seconded by Councilmember John Smalley. Motion carried. Councilmember Kenneth Usry moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2006 Council Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Mike Carrington. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance #532 to annex property on White Oak Road from existing city limits east and bounded by Sills Branch to the north and on the East by the rear of property lines fronting on Morris Road.

The final reading of ordinance to annex the abovementioned property consisting of about 300 acres into the city limits was presented. This property will be annexed with a zoning classification equal to the existing McDuffie County zoning.

(Map enclosed.)

Motioned by Councilmember Kenneth Usry and seconded by Councilmember John Smalley to accept the second reading to annex the White Oak property into the existing city limits. Motion carried.

Second Reading of Ordinance #533 to annex property located on Mount Pleasant Road adjacent to existing city limits in the southwest quadrant, bounded by White’s Creek, Shadowmoor Subdivision and Mount Pleasant Road.

The final reading of ordinance to annex property that is part of the former Johnson/McNeil property presently owned by Mrs. Miller was presented. This property is south of McDuffie Regional, bounded on the west by Mount Pleasant Road, bounded on the north by Camellia Estates subdivision, on the east by White’s Creek and on the south by Bob Farr. This property was recently purchased by Mr. Tony Burney’s company with the intentions of a possible subdivision/commercial tract. There is approximately 144 acres to be annexed into the city limits.

Councilmember Kenneth Usry moved for the annexation of this property, seconded by Councilmember Belton. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Building Permit Fees. The City of Thomson and McDuffie County permit fees are set at the same rate for uniformity. The current rates are 3 years old. The suggested new fees are set under the pre-existing fees of Columbia County. Based on a Single Family Residential:

	<u>Old</u>	<u>Suggested Fees</u>
Building	.07/sq.ft.	.08/sq.ft.
Electrical	\$35.00	\$50.00
Plumbing	\$35.00	\$50.00
Mechanical	\$35.00	\$50.00
Residential		
Temp. Pole	\$25.00	\$30.00

Commercial and electrical fees will be computed on a graduated building scale based on the cost of construction. (Scales enclosed)

Mayor and Council recommended that the suggested fees are sent to McDuffie County stating that the City of Thomson is in concurrence with the rates purposed.

Review of Reconnect Fees. A reconnect fee is a fee that is charged when someone is turned off for non-pay or any other reason that requires worker to go out after hours. At present time, the City of Thomson's fee is under what the surrounding areas are charging.

It is recommended to increase the reconnect fee from \$20.00 per service to \$40.00. Motioned by Councilmember Kenneth Usry, seconded by Councilmember Alton Belton to accept the recommendation to increase the reconnection fees. Motion carried. The increased rates will go into effect February 2007.

American Heart Association Heart Walk. The American Heart Association has set the annual Heart Walk for February 24, 2007 and has request that the Hickory Hill Subdivision be closed for the mornings' event. Councilmember John Smalley moved to accept the request to close the area, seconded by Councilmember Mike Carrington. Motioned carried.

Qualifying fees for Mayor and City Councilmember: Pursuant to OCGA 21-2-131(a)(1), the qualifying fees of a municipality for a general election shall be fixed and published no later than February 1, and at least 35 days prior to the election. Such fee shall be three percent of the total gross salary of the office paid in the preceding calendar year. The old qualifying fee for Mayor was \$132.00 and due to salary increase September 2003, the new fee shall be \$210.00. As is the old fee for a Councilmember was \$76.00, and due to the same salary increase, the new fee shall be \$120.00. Motioned by Councilmember John Smalley to accept the qualifying fees, followed by a seconded from Councilmember Alton Belton. Motion carried.

Establishing Polling Locations – Elections Director, Phyllis P. Wheeler.

The City of Thomson has three approved polling locations: City Hall (C1), City of Thomson Fire Station #1 (C2-McCommons St), and the Peach Corps Classroom (C3) on Augusta Hwy. The Board of Elections and Elections Director has proposed to move the city voters now assigned to the Peach Corps Classroom on Augusta Hwy. to the Human Development Center (old Recreation Dept.) located at 808 Whiteoak Road. This is due to the Peach Corps building now being closed.

Councilmember John Smalley moved to approve the changing of the polling site at the Peach Corps Classroom to the Human Development Center, seconded by Councilmember Mike Carrington. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION

The interviews for the City Administrator will be Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 5:30pm – 6:00pm, and on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 5:30pm.

City Administrator Flanders stated that there were 28 applications and, four were from Thomson. The Mayor was presented ten of the most qualified in order to make his selection of the top three. They are:

Kelly S. Evans – Thomson, GA

Don S. Powers - Thomson, GA

Danny O. Lucas – Sylvester, GA
(Qualifications sheet enclosed)

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk