

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

January 12, 2006

7:30 PM

CITY HALL

PRESENT

Mayor Robert E. Knox, Mayor
Kenneth Usry, Councilmember
J.T. Wiley, Councilmember
Mike Carrington, Councilmember
Alton Belton, Councilmember
Rev. John Smalley, Councilmember
Bob Flanders, City Administrator
Dianne Landers, City Clerk
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

ALSO PRESENT

George Nichols, Water Treatment
Fred Guerrant, Planning Director
Peter Ruddick, Code Enforcer
James Sewell, Fire Chief
Harry Johnson, St/Sanitation
Jim Wallace, McDuffie Progress
Jason Smith, McDuffie Mirror
Lisa Kitchens, WTHO/WTWA
Kathy Hawkins
Andrew & Brenda Slaughter
Mark & Carylton Clinkscales

Mayor Knox welcomed all present. Councilmember Usry was asked to lead the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance that was led by the Mayor.

MINUTES

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2005 Council Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Wiley, all in favor, so ordered.

Bob Flanders, City Administrator and the Camellia Partners traveled to Madison, GA for the purpose of observing the City of Madison's work over several years on their Downtown Development Project. Mr. Flanders described the many approaches Madison has used to invigorate their City's housing and retail. This is a project that the City of Thomson is looking into in our downtown area.

NEW BUSINESS

1st Reading Ordinance to establish a Historic Preservation Commission: An Ordinance to establish a historic preservation Commission in the City of Thomson to provide for designation of historic properties or historic districts; To provide for issuance of certificates of appropriateness; To provide for an appeals procedure; To repeal conflicting ordinances; and other purposes.

Bid Proposal Ladder Truck (Fire Department): The City with assistance from the Georgia Municipal Association conducted a reverse auction on December 20, 2005 for a fire ladder truck. There were only two (2) bidders: Atlanta Freightliner - \$517,000.00 and Fireline, Inc - \$517,657.00. There is \$500,000.00 in SPLOST funds set aside for the

purchase of the vehicle. The recommendation from the Fire Chief is Atlanta Freightliner. Delivery date is between 300-365 days. Moved by Councilmember Smalley to approve the recommendation from the Fire Chief, seconded by Councilmember Usry, all in favor, so ordered.

Bid Proposal for Chemicals for Water Treatment Plant: Three bids were presented by George Nichols, Director of Treatment Plant. Univar USA, Inc. of Augusta, GA was the lowest bidder and was recommended by George Nichols. The amount that was budgeted for chemicals and coagulants for 2006 is \$130,000.00. Moved by Councilmember Wiley, seconded by Councilmember Belton to accept the recommendation of Univar USA, Inc., all in favor, so ordered.

Thomson Company Delinquent Taxes: Mr. Flanders reported that three years of delinquent taxes amounting to over \$6,170.42, (City of Thomson portion equals to approximately \$300.00) have been written off by the McDuffie County Tax Commissioner.

Code Enforcement Issues: Zion Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. located on Railroad Street. Fred Guerrant stated that this church has asked permission in November 2005 for zoning change to permit a storefront church. As a result of the Planning Commission meeting, there was discussion and concerns as to the parking issues. The Planning Commission recommended approving a conditional use of the property for the Zion Church same as the Grace Community church for one year. Councilmember Belton moved that the church request for the one year to be reduced to six months and that the church relocates to a bigger place to meet during this period, on a second by Councilmember Carrington, the motion carried.

Code Enforcement Issues: Lee Street Storage Building. Peter Ruddick and Fred Guerrant both spoke to the owner of the building and she agreed to move the building to the rear of her house.

Code Enforcement Issues: Furniture and Trash –Landlord responsibility. A policy was put in place in January 2005 to eliminate picking up trash free of charge. A customer now has to call ahead of time to request items to be picked up for a fee. If furniture or trash is left in front of dwellings then it is picked up and the landowner is charged. Response time is very important here.

Garbage Rates: Customer with two or more containers: Customers with two garbage carts will be charged \$7.50 for 2nd cart or \$22.50 for both. Moved by Councilmember Belton, seconded by Councilmember Usry, all in favor, so ordered.

American Heart Walk- February 25, 2006 (Hickory Hills Neighborhood – 9am-Noon)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jimmy Crawley named the City of Thomson Fire Fighter of the Year at the annual Firemen's Christmas dinner.

We renewed our Gas Liability Policy with ranger Insurance Company. The premium for the coming year will be \$13,873.00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk