

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 9, 2006**

7:30 PM

CITY HALL

PRESENT

Robert E. Knox, Jr., Mayor
John Smalley, Councilmember
Kenneth Usry, Councilmember
J. T. Wiley, Councilmember
Alton Belton, Councilmember
Mike Carrington, Councilmember
Bob Flanders, City Administrator
Rhonda Brown, Deputy City Clerk
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

ALSO PRESENT

Jim Wallace, McDuffie Progress
Rick Sewell, Fire Chief
Peter Ruddick
Mariah Wall

ABSENT

Dianne Landers, City Clerk

Mayor Knox welcomed all present and also welcomed a special visitor Mariah Wall. John T. Wiley offered the invocation and Mayor Knox asked Mariah Wall if she would lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

John Wiley moved to approve the Minutes of the October 12, 2006 Council Meeting, seconded by John Smalley all in favor, so ordered.

Bob Flanders, City Administrator made one addition that McDuffie County and the Industrial Development Authority held meetings and these minutes include their results but not their votes. Kenneth Usry moved to approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2006 Joint City Council, McDuffie County Commissioners, Industrial Development Authority and the Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, seconded by John Smalley, all in favor, so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS:

Offer of Property: 23 acres corner of Salem and Shiloh Road: This property currently belongs to Mr. James Chapman and since the property is too small for Mr. Chapman to use he has offered the property to the City of Thomson as a gift. Mayor Knox recommended that the City accepts this property as a gift. Kenneth Usry moved to accept the .23 acres of land at the corner of Salem and Shiloh Road, seconded by Alton Belton, all in favor, so ordered. Mayor Knox asked City Attorney Jimmy Plunkett to prepare the documents associated with the title transfer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Contract for Joint (Thomson, Dearing, McDuffie County) Planning Comprehensive & Solid Waste Plan: Bob Flanders, City Administrator explained that this is a contract to update our Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan that is required by the State. The total cost of the project is \$20,000; which would be distributed between the counties based on the population, this breaks down to McDuffie County receiving \$13,160, Dearing \$400, and the City \$6,440. This does two things it updates the Comprehensive Plan and also completes a required Solid Waste Plan the State requires. This will be a joint contract between the City of Thomson and McDuffie County. Bob recommendation is that the City approves the updated joint contract between the City and County. Mike Carrington moved that the Contract for Joint (Thomson, Dearing, McDuffie County) Planning services for the Comprehensive & Solid Waste Plans be approved, seconded by John Smalley, all in favor, so ordered.

Contract for Technical Services for CDBG with the Regional Development Center: Bob stated that this is a second contract with the CSRA-RDC to secure their services to help with the administration and conduct carrying out of the grant that the City just received for \$780,000 to rehab housing in the Pitts Street area. The total amount of the contract is \$44,800 the CSRA-RDC primary function would be to help with the drawdown and carrying out the housing activity component. The fees for the CSRA-RDC were anticipated through the grant and would be paid through the grant. It is recommended that the City accept the grant. Councilman Smalley moved that the Contract for the Technical Services for CDBG with the Regional Development Center be approved, seconded by Kenneth Usry, all in favor, so ordered.

Resolution on Fire Services – National Incident Management System (NIMS): Rick Sewell explained that NIMS is a system that will provide a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. John Smalley moved to approve the Resolution on Fire Services – National Incident Management System (NIMS), seconded by Alton Belton, all in favor, so ordered.

Mayor Knox asked Rick to elaborate on the Fire Department Regional Fire Training School held on November 4. Rick explained that the Georgia Fire Academy's role is to bring the instructors and coordinate the training that occurs. The event attracted firefighters from thirteen different departments all across East Georgia. Extensive preparation and work was done by the Thomson's Firefighters to make this day a great success.

Sale of approximately two and a half acres of industrial land on O'Neal Street to Thomson Metals at \$13,000 per acres: Mayor Knox explained that Tim Brown, Thomson Metals previous purchased 10.64 acres of land which is the Old Knox Home Old National Home property. Mr. Brown has requested to purchase 2 _ acres of property from the City. The property would be from the edge of the property line back toward the

drainage ditch. The asking cost by the City for the land is \$13,000 per acres Mr. Brown has agreed to pay said price. Mayor Knox recommended that the money received from the sale of this property be put into the City's account to be used on future loans. The City would still own all property on the east side. Mike Carrington moved to approve the sale of 2 _ acres of industrial land on O'Neal to Thomson Metals at \$13,000 per acres, seconded by Kenneth Usry, all in favor, so ordered.

Banner request First Baptist Church for the Drive thru Nativity December 4 – December 14th, and request to redirect traffic at Nativity scene: Kenneth Usry moved to hang banner and redirect traffic for the Drive thru Nativity, seconded by Alton Belton, all in favor, so ordered.

Street closure Greenway from Railroad to Journal Street – Festival Off Main Saturday, December 2nd from 6am - 5pm and to close Railroad Street for Christmas Tree lighting: Alton Belton moved to close streets Greenway from Railroad to Journal Street, seconded by John Smalley, all in favor, so ordered.

Street closure Bethany from Camellia Drive to North Lee Street for Christmas Parade Saturday, December 2nd from 2pm – 6pm and any additional street closure for 5k run: Kenneth Usry moved to close streets from Camellia Drive to N. Lee Street for Christmas Parade, seconded by John T. Wiley, all in favor, so ordered.

Street closure Springfield Street for Springfield Baptist Church from 9am – 5pm on November 18th – Benefit Carnival for Kie'Seonna Harris: John Smalley moved to close Springfield Street from 9am – 5pm for Benefit Carnival for Kie'Seonna Harris, seconded by Mike Carrington, all in favor, so ordered.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Bob Flanders explained that the City has met all the requirements by Environmental Protection Division for Consent Order No. EPD-WQ-3271. This means that the City spent approximately \$200,000, documenting the fact that there is no major toxicity problem at White's Creek.

Bob recognized Taylor "T.S." Cody, a city employee for twenty seven years, was buried on November 1st. T.S. will be remembered for his "can do" attitude and his willingness to tackle any job.

Mayor Knox asked Jimmy Plunkett to prepare a resolution to be presented to his wife.

Bob mentioned that two advertisements were placed in the local paper and with the Georgia Municipal Association for a Public Works Director and City Administrator. The goal is to fill the positions between now and the beginning of 2007.

Mr. Flanders reminded everyone about the changes to the garbage schedule for the Thanksgiving Holidays that the City will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24. Garbage routes for those days will be collected on Wednesday, November 22nd. Door hangar have been distributed to remind customers of the changes in the pick up service.

Bob reported that the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority has finalized paper work on two loans that the City and McDuffie County applied for through the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. There are two applications pending one for City of Thomson and the other for McDuffie County each application is in the amount of \$1,410,223. The City of Thomson and McDuffie County should be closing on the loans by next week. The total of the loans will be two point eight-million dollars to construct the granulated activated carbon filter columns at the two water treatment plants. The loan will be 3% interest rate and the City and County should not incur any additional construction loan cost. There is a 2% closing fee to be paid over a year's time that will amount to about \$28,204.

Bob stated that Senator Jim Whitehead has requested that the City file a list of capital projects in the event that he might be able to obtain funding at some point during the formulation of the State Budget.

Mayor Knox mentioned that a letter has been sent to CSRA Probation services notifying them of the impending change in probation services so that the automatically renewing contract would not be invoked. The City will be taking new bids in December or January to begin services around March 1.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda P. Brown
Deputy City Clerk