

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

February 14, 2008

7:30PM

CITY HALL

Present

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

Tony Burnley
Jennifer Lampkin, CSRA Probation
Ginny Baggett, CSRA Probation
Chuck Cason, Gas Director
Tommy Phelps

Also Present

Jim Wallace, The Progress
Boyd Rogers
Fred Guarrant
Bryan Rogers
Meredith & Madison Rogers
Rick Sewell, Fire Chief
Donna Branch, WTHO
Teresa McClellan, CMS
Amy Stadler, CMS
Billy W. Hobbs, McDuffie Mirror
Bea Hart Moss
Mike Popplewell, CSRA Probation
Elaine Lowry, CSRA Probation
John Hathaway, Police Chief
Scott Huff, Water Distribution

Mayor Usry welcomed all for the Regular Council meeting for February 14, 2008. The invocation was given by Councilmember Belton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Special Presentation was made to honor to Bryan Rogers for 10 years of service with the Thomson Fire Department. Bryan was presented a plaque and a check.

The City of Thomson was recognized at the Silver level by the American Cancer Society for raising \$21,270.91 in last year's Relay for Life effort. A plaque was awarded and placed on the wall in Council Chambers

MINUTES:

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on January 10, 2008. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all.

NEW BUSINESS:

Contract renewal for Probation Services

CSRA Probation Services and Client Management Systems, Inc.

Mr. Mike Popplewell from **CSRA Probation Services** gave his presentation on all the various probation duties that his office has handled for the City of Thomson for the past four years. Mrs. Teresa McClellan represented **Client Management Systems, Inc.** whose probation business has been incorporated since 2005.

Councilmember Smalley moved to remain with CSRA Probation Services, seconded by Councilmember Belton. Motion carried by all with stipulation to analyze yearly.

Subdivision Preliminary Plat Review –Mt Pleasant Road/Tony Burnley:

Fred Guerrant presented an application from Tony Burnley requesting approval for a preliminary plat and layout of a proposed new subdivision to be located on Mt. Pleasant Road. The location of the proposed subdivision is across from Maxwell Elementary School on a 141.86 acre parcel. The subdivision as drawn will consist of 317 lots ranging from 26,000 sq. ft. to 7,700 sq. ft. The subdivision will be constructed in phases with Phase I to begin in the southwest corner (60 lots). The City of Thomson Planning Board approved the subdivision plat design and recommended that it be forwarded to the City Council. The name of this subdivision will be Millbrook Subdivision. Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the recommendation from the Planning Board. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Change – Mt. Pleasant Road/Tony Burnley:

Fred Guerrant stated that in conjunction with the subdivision, a zoning change was necessary to make the property compatible for its use as a subdivision. This property was annexed into the City limits in January 2007 as an R-2 which is a Multi-Family classification. It is requested to have the zoning classification changed to an R-1a Single Family with a minimum lot size of 7,500 sq. ft. The Planning Board recommended the zoning change approval and that it be forwarded to the City Council.

Councilmember Belton moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Board, seconded by Councilmember Jones. All were in favor. Motion carried.

1st Reading Annexation Request Horizon Properties:

This is the first reading for a request to annex property located on Highway 17, Wrens Highway. The majority of this piece of property is already in the City limits. This will bring the entire parcel into the City

2008 CDBG/CHIP Letter of Agreement for Application:

This allows the CSRA RDC to apply for \$500,000 infrastructure grant to replace some old water main on Washington Highway and on "A" Street in the Housing Project. Councilmember Smalley moved to approve this application. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CHIP Grant Writing Services Proposal – FY 2008:

This is giving Rhonda Gilbert, Gilbert and Associates, permission to apply for a \$200,000 CHIP Grant for housing rehabilitation in the City of Thomson.

Resolution for Rural Business Enterprise Grant:

This resolution authorizes the application for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant through the United States Department of Agriculture in the sum of \$99,000. These funds will be used for the

improvements to the Community and Economic Development Center, formerly the Regions Bank Building.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Contract Administration, TE III Grant, Depot Renovations:

This is a grant administration contract in the amount of \$15,000. This actual agreement between the City and RDC provides for technical assistance in the administration of the City of Thomson's Depot Renovation/Restoration. The project is funded by the third TE Grant award from the D.O.T. Councilmember Belton moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CHIP Grant Policy Revisions:

There are minor revisions necessary for the Community Housing Investment Program (CHIP) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) policies and procedures. Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the revisions. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consent Order – Gas Department Procedures:

The Georgia Public Service Commission sent consent agreements to all natural gas providers in the State. The order centers on a systematic update to gas department procedures and policies, as written and trained. MGAG is leading this effort for our Gas Department. City attorney, Jimmy Plunkett's advice was to sign the order and return.

Bid Proposal Construction of Thomson Bypass Natural Gas:

The City of Thomson considered the bids submitted by the following for the Thomson Natural Gas Bypass Relocation:

C.J. Hodge Enterprize Loganville, GA	\$297,240.00
Classic City Mechanical Winterville, GA	\$451,045.00
Classic City Utility Winterville, GA	\$670,551.50

Keck and Wood, Inc., our gas system engineers, recommended the contract be awarded to C.J. Hodge Enterprizes in the amount of \$297,240.00 for the construction of the Thomson Bypass Natural Gas Facilities Relocation. This bid is significantly below the 2008 budgeted amount for gas department, capital.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the recommendation and low bid of C.J. Hodge, seconded by Councilmember Belton. Motion was approved unanimously.

2007 Budget Amendment – Police Department:

In closing the 2007 books for audit, Tammy Haire, our Finance Director recommended a budget amendment as regards the Thomson Police Department's budget...over budget due to overtime.

“Balancing” this account was done by using funds from the Street Department final actuals, which were under budget. This final balancing is recommended by our auditors. Councilmember Jones moved to accept the 2007 budget amendments for the Police and Street Departments. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Roofing for City Hall:

The roof at City Hall is leaking and more than likely needs replacement. After discussion, Council approved going forward with writing a bid spec and getting bids to repair or replace.

Re-Appointments of Joint City/County Industrial Development Authority Members:

There is a need to re-appoint Riley Stamey, George O. Hughes and Curtis Pickard whose terms expired December 2007. All three members have agreed to serve for another six year term. Their terms will expire December 2013.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to re-appoint Riley Stamey, George Hughes and Curtis Pickard for a six year term to Joint City/County Industrial Development Authority. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Appointment on Joint Industrial Development Authority:

There is a need to make an appointment to replace Mayor Kenneth Usry who currently serves on the Joint Industrial Development Authority as Executive Officer. Robert E. Knox, Jr. was nominated to serve the unexpired term of Mr. Usry until December 31, 2010.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the appointment of Robert E. Knox, Jr. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Re-instatement of the “Y” membership for City employees:

As an incentive to start addressing health issues regarding our employees, Don Powers presented for consideration, the resumption of having monthly membership dues at the “Y” paid for by the City. The stipulations would be attendance of no less than 12 times monthly in order to qualify for an employee’s dues to be paid by the City. This would commence March 1st.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the benefit of paying for the memberships to the “Y” for the City employees with a budget increase of \$18,000 per year. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk