

CITY OF THOMSON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
February 9, 2006

7:30 PM

CITY HALL

**PRESENT**

Robert E. Knox, Mayor  
Kenneth Usry, Councilmember  
J.T. Wiley, Councilmember  
Alton Belton, Councilmember  
Rev. John Smalley, Councilmember  
Robert L. Flanders, City Administrator  
Dianne L. Landers, City Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT**

George Nichols, Water Treatment  
Fred Guerrant, Planning Director  
Peter Ruddick, Code Enforcer  
Lisa Kitchens, WTHO/WTWA  
Jim Wallace, McDuffie Progress  
Jason B. Smith, McDuffie Mirror

**Absent**

Mike Carrington, Councilmember

Mayor Knox convened the meeting with a welcome and asked Councilman J. T. Wiley to offer an invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Minutes**

Councilman Kenneth Usry moved the approval of minutes from the January 12, 2006 meeting. Following a second by Councilman Alton Belton, the motion carried.

**Old Business**

The Council began with consideration of the second reading of an Ordinance to create a Historic Preservation Commission. The Ordinance would establish a five member commission responsible for the following: identification of a historic district, establishment of standards to preserve facades and buildings within the district, reviewing proposed renovations to buildings within the district and the issuance of certificates of appropriateness; establishing an appeal process, and establishing operating parameters to be followed by the Commission in the execution of their duties. Following a discussion of the general duties of the Commission, Councilman Kenneth Usry moved the adoption of the Ordinance. The motion carried following a second by Councilman Alton Belton.

## **New Business**

Fred Gurrant, Planning Director of the Thomson-McDuffie County Planning Commission, reported that research into the question of whether a permit should be required before placing a storage or utility buildings on property revealed the practice of not requiring permits was in error. He indicated that his office had begun the practice of requiring permits in the future. This would ensure that set backs and other zoning rules were followed in the placement of such buildings. No action was required by the Council on the matter.

The Council heard a request from the McDuffie County Board of Education to annex property owned by the Board on Whiteoak Road where a new school is to be built. Following a discussion of the request, Mayor Bob Knox asked that the request be held for further consideration until other property owners in that area could be petitioned to also join in the annexation. No action was taken, and the matter was placed on hold.

A request from the Library for support to pay for a failed HVAC unit was presented. The City was asked to provide \$850 to be matched by the County to aid in the unexpected expense at the Library. A motion by Councilman John Smalley and seconded by Councilman Alton Belton was unanimously approved.

Mayor Knox reported that the Department of Transportation had granted the pavement of three roads within the City of Thomson to be paved this year under the Local Assistance Road Program. To be paved were: Dogwood Drive, Poplar Street, and Sycamore Street.

City Administrator Bob Flanders outlined the need to apply to the OneGeorgia Authority for a \$500,000 loan to finance additional hangars at the Thomson-McDuffie County Regional Airport. The project will also use funds from two fiscal years of FAA funding in the amount of \$300,000 supplemented by City and McDuffie County funds to complete the \$1,076,500 hangar facility. Councilman Kenneth Usry moved that the City Administrator be authorized to precede with the preparation of the loan papers to OneGeorgia. Following a second by Councilman J. T. Wiley, the project was approved.

## **Discussion Items**

City Administrator Bob Flanders reported that the EIP application to assist in the extension of a water line to Shaw was completed and being reviewed by DCA.

Mayor Bob Knox, County Commission Chairman Charlie Newton, and Bob Flanders presented the case for the Department of Transportation assuming the responsibility for paying for \$857,986 in utility relocations within the right of way of the East Bypass at a meeting in Atlanta. DOT reported they would be responsible for some \$752,500 of conflicts that were outside the existing right of way. DOT accepted the paperwork and will hand down a decision in the next few weeks.

A meeting with DOT Airport officials, Carol Comer and Alan Hood was held in which the State agreed to go forward with the \$525,000 runway extension project. The legislature is expected to approve the money in the DOT budget and can proceed in July with the new State fiscal year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Dianne L. Landers  
City Clerk