

CITY OF THOMSON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
March 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  
Mike Carrington, Councilmember  
Robert L. Flanders, City Administrator  
Dianne L. Landers, City Clerk  
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

**ALSO PRESENT**

Sammy Luckey, A.J. Miller Lodge #204  
Gerald A. Bryant, Worshipful Master  
Peter Ruddick, Code Enforcer  
Lisa Kitchens, WTHO/WTWA  
Jim Wallace, McDuffie Progress  
Fred Guarrant, Planning Director  
Jason Smith, McDuffie Mirror  
Liz Smith  
Kay and Ronald Anderson

Mayor Knox welcomed all present. The invocation was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Mayor Knox introduced Mr. Sammy Luckey as a raconteur of this area for his ability to recall stories and history remembered around the City of Thomson with wit and humor. Mr. Luckey and Mr. Bryant stated that the A. J. Miller Masonic Lodge was celebrating their 150th anniversary, and to commemorate the occasion they created a coin. The coin consists of the a picture of the Lodge on one side as recognition of the 150 years of service to the community and the Camellia Print on the other side to include the City of Thomson. Two coins, in bronze and nickel were presented to the Mayor and Council.

**Minutes**

Councilman Kenneth Usry moved the approval of minutes from the February 9th, 2006 meeting. Following a second by Councilman J.T. Wiley Belton, the motion carried.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Fred Guarrant, Planning Director of the Thomson-McDuffie County Planning Commission, presented an application from Kay and Ronald Anderson for a Conditional Use Review – Home Occupation at 319 Apollo Drive for a detached home occupation at

their residence. They have been catering barbeque out of structure in the rear of the property. This operation is small, about 2-3 times per month during the summertime. Suggestion made that this is not a business, just a home occupation.

The Planning Board recommended seven (7) conditions for the home occupation. Councilmember Alton Belton moved that the conditions be accepted, seconded by Councilmember Mike Carrington. The motion carried.

Resolution to Authorize Application: This is a resolution to file a 2006 Community Development Block Grant in the Pitts Street area. The City has attempted before but was unsuccessful. This grant is multi-purpose in that it includes public works as well as housing. Deadline for the grant is April 3, 2006.

Councilmember Kenneth Usry moved to approve the 2006 CDBG Resolution, followed by a seconded from Councilmember J.T. Wiley. The motion carried.

Amend and Adoption of 2006 Water/Sewer Budget:

Due to the rate increases in the Water and Sewer rates done in November 2005, the 2006 budget for Water and Sewer were incomplete until after the rate implementation.

Budgeted Revenue = \$3,306,750.00

Budgeted Expenses = \$3,066,250.00

Capital= \$ 240,500.00

A motion by Councilmember J.T. Wiley, seconded by Councilmember Alton Belton to approve the 2006 Water and Sewer Budget. The motion carried.

Banner Request from the Thomson Competitive Cheerleaders:

The Thomson Competitive Cheerleaders, a program of the Recreation Departments request that a banner be displayed across Main Street for one week in March. This team won the National Cheerleading Championship in Atlanta on February 11-12, 2006.

Councilmember Kenneth Usry moved for the request to be granted, seconded by Councilmember Mike Carrington. The motion carried.

Annual Camellia City Car Show:

Camellia City Car Show is an event performed yearly at the Depot. This year the event will be May 6, 2006. Their request is that the entrance and exit to Railroad Street and the entrance and exit to East Hendricks streets be blocked for traffic from 9am to 6pm in order to set up the event and park the cars. They expect to have 100-200 entries.

Motion by Councilmember John Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Alton Belton to grant the request for the Car Show. The motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Flanders stated that he had received some complaints about a new business, Extreme Customs, located in the old Firestone Tire Building on Hill Street. He stated that

neighboring owners have complained about the clientele and the old cars outside the business.

Liz Smith, owner Little “G” was present at the council meeting and stated her complaints with the business.

DOT agreed to assume all cost and responsibility of the utility relocation of the water and sewer conflicts. The next step will be to move forward with the final engineering and coordinate the construction with DOT.

The City of Thomson Relay for Life effort has begun. The purple and pink potties are circulating around. Thomson City as a whole is getting reared up for a big relay event with various groups around the town joining to help with the cause.

Thomson Policeman Jared Land spotted a person driving whom he knew had an expired driver’s license. In the course of searching, the person had 138 grams cocaine valued at approximately \$113,000.00 on the street.

Two City workers, Sammy Parker and Teddy Daniels noticed a fire in the yard that seemed to be unattended by anyone. The fire was within a foot of the house foundation. They proceeded to try to put out the fire, but in the course of doing so called the City Hall where Esther Newman answered the radio and heard the request for the fire department. This was her house. Other City workers responded also and they put the fire out. Our hats are off to the two observant City workers who saved Mrs. Newman from a tragic fire and the other workers who took the time to help.

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

Dianne L. Landers  
City Clerk