

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

April 12, 2007

7:30PM

CITY HALL

PRESENT

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

Bea Hart-Moss
Jason Wells
Doug and Kay Lord

ALSO PRESENT

Randy Griswell
Ann Griswell
Mike Hobbs
Judy Hobbs
Jordan Hobbs
Ethan Hobbs
Elizabeth Hobbs Powers,
Scott Huff
Mike Dunn
Tim Steed
Larry Hampton
Jim Wall
Ben Hobbs
Kaytie and Macy Lord

Mayor Knox welcomed all present. Invocation was lead by Mayor Knox, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

The Mayor and Council presented Randy Griswell with a Proclamation recognizing thirty eight years of faithful years with the City of Thomson. Randy's numerous jobs included working in the Gas, Sewer and Water Departments until his day of retirement on March 27, 2007.

Tim Steed, an employee with the Water Distribution Department who was station in Iraq for 12 months, presented the Special Patriots Award to Scott Huff for his dedication and concern for Tim while he was deployed. The Patriot's Award is given by the National Guard to a civilian whom that service member feels supported them best while they were away.

Mayor Knox congratulated Scott, and indicated he was serving as the assistant to Randy Griswell who retired.

Councilmember Mike Carrington moved to approve Scott Huff as the Superintendent of the Water Distribution Department to replace the vacancy of Randy Griswell. After a second by Councilmember Usry, the motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on March 8, 2007, seconded by Councilmember Carrington. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Alcohol consumption on premise (Abigail's On Main):

The application for this restaurant has already been reviewed and all requirements and obligations have been met.

Councilmember Carrington moved to accept the application to allow alcohol consumption of the premises of Abigail's On Main. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Belton. Councilmember Smalley abstained. Motion carried.

Resolution of Designation of Applicant's Agent for FEMA:

This resolution authorizes Donald Powers, City Administrator to work as its applicant's agent to all Federal Emergency Management Agency matters.

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the designation of the applicant agent.

Councilmember Smalley followed with a second. The motion carried.

2007 Budget Amendment for General, Gas, Water, and Maintenance Funds:

The General Fund operating amendments are Health insurance, Workers Compensation, Administrator salary, Audit, Repeater and Historic Preservation Committee all equals an increase of \$81,985.00. These adjustments will be covered by amended revenue from GA Power Franchise Tax, Premium Tax, and Bank Tax Receipts, Interest from CD's and Bank and FEMA Revenue.

The Water Fund operating amendments are Health insurance, Workers Compensation, Wastewater License, Audit, Repeater and GEFA Debt Service rate increase equals an increase of \$249,816.00. These adjustments will be covered by amended revenue from Water sales, cut on fees, sewer sales, McDuffie County penalty, interest from CD's and FEMA revenue.

The Gas Fund operating amendments consists of Health insurance, Workers Compensation, Audit and Repeater equals an increase of \$12,470.00. These amendments will be covered by adjusted cut on fees, Misc. revenue and FEMA revenue.

The Solid Waste operating amendments are Health insurance, Workers Compensation, Vehicle Service Account and Audit all equaling an increase of \$23,269.00. These adjustments will be covered by amended revenue from Waste Disposal and FEMA revenue.

The Maintenance Fund operating amendments consists of Health insurance, Workers Compensation and Unemployment equals an increase of \$2,000.00. These adjustments will be covered by amended revenue from the Transfer from Solid Waste.

Councilmember Usry moved to accept the 2007 Budget amendments, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. Motion carried.

Occupation Tax Fee Schedule:

These new forms and tax fee schedule are to standardize our present forms in conjunction with the new program that McDuffie County implemented. These two items will go into effect with the next billing cycle next year 2008.

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the new tax fee and tax application form.
Councilmember Wiley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
(Form and schedule attached)

Bid from Thomson Fire Department for Fire Hose:

Thomson Fire Department presented bids from three bidders for fire hose for the 2007 budget. Bids were received from:

FireLine, Inc. \$5,474.00
NAFECO, Inc. \$5,802.54
Anderson Fire \$6,088.57

Although, FireLine was the low bidder, they did not provide any specifications or warranties as required therefore, the next low bidder, NAFECO, Inc. was recommended by Fire Chief.

Motioned by Councilmember Smalley and seconded by Councilmember Belton to accept the recommendation from the Fire Chief for NAFECO, Inc. to provide the fire hose for 2007. Motion carried. Budget for Fire hose is \$6,000.00.

Bid for Small Trucks for Meter Readers/Water Treatment Plant:

Three bids were received for two small trucks in the Meter Reader Department and the Water Treatment Department. The bids were received from:

Culpepper Ford	\$11,093.75	(V-6 – Ranger)
Stokes Hodges	\$12,408.00	(Colorado)
Thomson Chrysler	\$14,983.00	(Club Car)

Combined budgeted for all is:	\$74,000.00
Actual total bid for all:	\$33,281.25
Difference:	\$40,718.75

Councilmember Usry moved to approve the low bid from Culpepper Ford.
Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CDBG Housing Program Policies and Procedures:

The City of Thomson has received a Community Development Block Grant award for neighborhood improvements, including housing rehabilitation in the Pitts Street Area. The CSRA Rural Development Center has developed some policies and procedures for the City of Thomson to adopt in order to bring houses up to the Minimum Property Standards.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the Policies and Procedures. Councilmember Carrington seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Policies attached)

Board Appointments: Comprehensive Planning Committee:

Term of Office: April 2007 to Completion of Plan

Tony Burnley	Riley Stamey	Andy Knox	George Lokey
Lee Ann Cowart	Jim Alfriend	Bob Wilson, Jr.	

Board of Adjustments and Appeals Appointments:

There is a need to reappoint Mr. Earnest Hobbs, Jr. whose term expired April 2006. He has agreed to a reappointment for another three (3) year term.

Housing Authority Board Appointments:

There is a need to reappoint Mr. John Griffin who currently serves on the Housing Authority. His term expired April 2006. He has agreed to serve another five (5) year term.

Councilmember Belton moved to approve all board appointments. Councilmember Carrington seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Banner requests: White Columns Inn and The Wilson Company for the upcoming Trail Ride. (Banner to be hung April 16-April 22, 2007)

Chamber of Commerce for the upcoming car show. (Banner to be hung April 30-May 7, 2007)

Activities Council for Blind Willie McTell Festival on May 12th. (Banner to be hung May 7-14, 2007)

Plum Branch Yacht Club on May 27, 2007. (Banner to be hung May 21-27, 2007)

Councilmember Belton moved to approve the banner requests. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Car Show:

The Chamber of Commerce will be having their Annual Car Show on Saturday, May 5, 2007. They are formally requesting closure of the streets at the entrance and exit to Railroad Street and the entrance and exit to E. Hendricks Street from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Councilmember Carrington moved to approve the closing of the streets. Councilmember Wiley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

City Administrator Don Powers indicated the final report submitted to FEMA for tornado related expense reimbursement, totaled \$55,963.70. This covers personnel overtime and use of equipment.

Jake McCord retired on February 27, 2007 after nearly 40 years of service with the City of Thomson.

Mike Dunn began working as our new Code Enforcement Officer on April 2, 2007.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk