

CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 12, 2007

7:30PM

CITY HALL

PRESENT

Kenneth Usry, Mayor Pro. Tem
Jay Jones, Councilmember
J.T. Wiley, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Don Powers, City Administrator
Dianne Landers, City Clerk

Absent

Robert Knox, Jr., Mayor
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney
Alton Belton, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Leon Cato
Cyndie Locklear
Peter Ruddick, St and Solid Waste
Ben Dedrick, McDuffie Progress
Donna Branch, WTHO
Mike Wall, WTHO
Billy Hobbs, McDuffie Mirror
Larry Dye
Kathy Dye

Mayor Pro Tem Usry called the Regular Council meeting for July 2007 to order and gave the welcome to all in attendance in the absence of Mayor Bob Knox, Jr. The invocation was led by Councilmember Jay Jones followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Larry Dye, an employee with our Street Department, received special recognition for 10 years of service to the City of Thomson. Mr. Dye received a plaque and a check.

Mike Wall introduced Donna Branch to the Council as a new member of the WTHO family. Donna will be covering the City of Thomson Council meetings.

MINUTES

Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on June 14, 2007, seconded by Councilmember Wiley. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution, Transmittal of Solid Waste Management Plan Update.

This resolution says that the City of Thomson is required, upon completion, to transmit a copy of the Joint Solid Waste Management Plan (updated every 10 years) to the Central Savannah River Area RDC for review. Councilmember Smalley moved to approve the resolution, and Councilmember Wiley seconded the motion. Motion approved by all.

Purchase of House and Lot at 524 Railroad Street.

There is a vacant house at 524 Railroad Street own by the William Mauldin family. The family has contacted the City with interest of selling said property to the City for \$25,000. The fair market value from the tax records is \$22,868 and the family's original asking price was \$30,000.

City Administrator Powers explained that the general idea is to take this semi-abandoned property, refurbish it, and then sell it. We would first offer this property to a City employee who may be renting, for instance, and interested in home ownership. We could use the HODAG funds that we hold to make the loan at an attractive rate. The qualification for such a loan would closely mirror other lower interest options that may be available to households classified as "low to moderate" income.

City Administrator Powers discussed three points concerning this project:

- (1) Our efforts would keep this property from becoming rental property.
- (2) We could use the HODAG funds, which are idle and need to be put to use.
- (3) Other cities are taking this same approach with some success. Aiken is one for example, where the City is buying homes, renovating, and then reselling to qualified buyers.

After much discussion on the subject, Councilmember Jones moved to table the matter until later, seconded by Councilmember Smalley. Motion carried.

Historic Preservation Update.

City Administrator Powers gave an update on the Public Hearing held for the Proposed Historic Preservation District. Mr. Powers stated that there were approximately 150 in attendance. The boundary resolution has been acted on by the Historic Preservation Commission and received by the City within the 15 day period following the hearing.

The boundaries will be discussed and action is likely at the next Regular Council meeting. The City's website has a section on the Historic Preservation plans.

There was a question from a citizen as to what an area of homes should do if they do not want to be included in the Historic Preservation District. She was instructed to gather the names and get those into City Hall prior to the August 2007 Regular Council meeting.

2008 Budget Schedule.

Work Session – August 7, 2007 @5:30PM

Public Hearings – August 23 & 30, 2007

Approve Budget – August 30, 2007

Banner request

Hickory Hill is requesting a banner to be hung across Main Street from July 30, thru August 3, 2007, promoting their annual Watermelon Festival. Councilmember Smalley moved to accept banner request, seconded by Councilmember Wiley. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION

Our pre-construction meeting for the Big Creek Expansion project will be held Monday, July 16, 2007. Thamer Construction is the contractor and O'Brien & Gere is the engineering firm.

The pre-construction meeting for the 1st phase of TE projects will be held Tuesday, July 24, 2007. Work will start in the parking lot behind the theatre and then move out to Main Street.

The Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Marilyn Stevenson, will be retiring at the end of this year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk