

**CITY OF THOMSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2009
6:30PM CITY HALL**

Present:

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

Also Present:

Jim Wallace, the Progress
Melinda Carney
Walter Hobbs
Donna Branch, WTWO
Janet Gilmore
Herman Gilmore
Keith Denmark
Bea Hart-Moss

Mayor Usry welcomed all to the Regular Council Meeting of May 14, 2009. The invocation was given by Councilmember James Jones followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United State Flag.

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Usry recognized two City of Thomson employees for their years of service. Jerry Stanphill, Assistant Chief of Police received his 20 years of service award. Raymond Brinkley, Captain in the Thomson Fire Department received his 30 year award. Both were given a plaque and a gift from the City.

MINUTES:

Councilmember Lunceford moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on April 9, 2009. Councilmember Smalley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Usry stated that we will have to amend the Senior Rental Assistance agreement. The City of Thomson has to adopt a formula to assist in subsidy payments for low income housing units. The formula recognized by DCA is the IRS Section 42 Low-income Home Tax Credit for the affordable housing program.

Councilmember Belton moved to adopt the LIHTC as utilized by HUD and as amended by HUD from time to time. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bids Tabs Parking Lot Paving:

Three (3) bids were received for the Old Post Office Parking lot:

	<u>Bid amount/City portion</u>	<u>Watson and Knox</u>
MFS Grading	\$29,110.00	\$11,440.00
Reeves Construction Co	\$47,477.75	\$33,035.00
Robertson Grading, Inc.	\$83,229.90	\$9,174.70

City Administrator Don Powers recommended MFS Grading with a low bid of \$29,110.00.

Councilmember Lunceford moved to accept the recommendation and low bid from MFS Grading. Councilmember Belton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Façade Grant Application:

Jeffrey and Lee Ann Cowart submitted an application for 222 Main Street for a \$7,000 façade grant to cover and protect the entrance to the building and display name of the business.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the application from the Cowarts' and award the façade grant of \$7,000. Councilmember Lunceford seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The details of this design will have to go to the Historic Preservation Commission for final approval.

First reading City of Sign Ordinance #540:

This is the first reading of a Sign Ordinance to provide standards and regulations for the location, size, illumination, erection, maintenance and quality of materials of all signs in the City limits.

Since this was the first reading, no action was taken.

Closure of streets in Greenway, Railroad Area:

The City of Thomson issued a Declaration of Street Closing to close Clary Alley, Dublin Street, Turner Street and Cleveland Street from Railroad Street to Whiteoak Street and declares these sections of the municipal street system to be abandoned. The rights of the public to use these roads and alley as public roads are terminated.

The City of Thomson shall issue a quit-claim deed to the roads and alleys to the adjoining property owners, McDuffie County.

Councilmember Smalley moved to accept the Declaration of Street Closing for Clary Alley, Dublin Street, Turner Street and Cleveland Street from Railroad Street to Whiteoak Street. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

McDuffie County and the City of Thomson have developed a Census 2010 counting awareness group.

The Census 2010 group is working to publicize the awareness of the 2010 Census. Councilmember John Smalley was appointed to represent the City, along with Fred Favors, elected to same for the County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Dianne L. Landers
City Clerk