

AUGUST 22, 1994

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
226 SOUTH WALL STREET

PRESENT: JOHN D. MEADOWS, III, MAYOR  
THOMAS BOND, MAYOR PRO-TEM  
JOHN D. SHLETON, COUNCILMAN  
PAUL MCENTIRE, COUNCILMAN  
JIMMY PALMER, COUNCILMAN

ALSO: KELLY CORNWELL, DIRECTOR UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS  
WILLIAM P. BAILEY, CITY ATTORNEY  
CATHY HARRISON, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Mayor Meadows called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Meadows led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.
3. Minutes of the August 8, 1994 Regular City Council Meeting were approved as written.
4. Mayor's Comments:
  - a. Mayor Meadows stated the City Council held a public hearing on August 18, 1994 regarding possible adoption of a leash law. He stated the meeting was well attended, approximately 50 people, and they were very vocal in their request for adoption of a leash law. He stated the Mayor and Council would review ordinances from other cities, and would hope to have a proposal ready for September 12, 1994.
  - b. Mayor Meadows reminded the Council of public hearings scheduled for September 12, 1994. Those being: (1) Zoning Variance Request of Weldon C. Childers of 108 Fain Street for a 10 ft. variance from the east property line and a 10 ft. variance from the rear property line; (2) Zoning Variance Request of R&R Food Store located at 400 West Line Street for a 20 ft. variance off River and West Line Street for construction of a canopy over gas pumps; (3) Temporary Zoning Variance Request of American Weaver L.P. located at 965 North Wall Street (Old Echota Mill Property) for a mobile home office while permanent offices are being built; (4) Zoning Variance Request of Prater Ford located at 704 South Wall Street for a 23 ft. variance off Peter Street for a building addition; (5) Zoning Variance Request of New Beginnings Home Center to allow a 14x70 mobile home to serve as sales center office; (6) Zoning Variance Request of Astro Dye Works located at 925 Oothcalooga Street for a 26 ft. variance off Pine Street; (7) Annexation Ordinance Request of Bill Walraven and Stanley Simpson for 10.284 acres off Gee Road for Ind.-G zoning; (8) Annexation Ordinance Request of Paul Lusk/Linda Whittenburg for approximately 10 acres adjoining the Park Place property in Land Lot 197 for R-1 zoning; (9) Annexation Ordinance Request of Paul Lusk for approximately one and one half acres in Land Lot 197 north of Park Place for R-1 zoning; (10) Annexation Ordinance Request of Deborah Owens Guinter for approximately 30 acres off Red Bud Road (being the former Buddy Norton property) for R-1 zoning.
  - c. Mayor Meadows announced a Pre-Legislative Meeting in Augusta, Georgia for October 19 and 20, 1994. He

encouraged the Council and staff to attend.

5. Public Hearings & Comments:

Ord. No. 556

- a. A 2nd reading of a Fee Ordinance governing cemetery prices, amending the inspection and permitting fee process for heating and air conditioning, and changing the cost of 2" water connection fees. A public hearing was opened, there were no comments and the hearing was closed. Councilman McEntire made a motion to waive the 3rd & 4th readings and to approve, 2nd by Mayor Pro-Tem Bond with Councilman McEntire, Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- b. A discussion followed on the direction staff should take regarding application for the Main Street Program. Peterson and Harrison explained that the application calls for a minimum up to five year commitment for employment of a full time Main Street Director, including fringe benefits, travel expense and Main Street fees which staff estimated to be approximately \$50,000.00 per year. Harrison stated the local Downtown Development Authority was not in a position to make a commitment or to deny a commitment for funding toward this position. Mayor Meadows stated the City of Calhoun had taken steps over the last two years to gain an opening for the Main Street Program when it was re-established, and that this year there were two to three cities which would be allowed to join the program. He stated he felt the steps that had been taken by the City over the last couple years would not be helpful if an application was not filed for the current year. Harrison suggested that an application be filed, and if the application is accepted, the Mayor and Council could at that time make a commitment for funding the program either entirely by the City or partially by the City and partially by the local property owners and business owners in the downtown area. Following further discussion, Councilman Palmer made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of an application as suggested by Harrison, 2nd by Councilman Shelton with Councilman Palmer, Councilman Shelton, Councilman McEntire and Mayor Pro-Tem Bond voting affirmatively, motion carried.

6. Old Business:

- a. Harrison gave a review of the year end budget to actual report for the period ending June 30, 1994. Harrison stated General Fund income was budgeted at \$9,524,629.00 with actual income of \$8,546,965.91. Harrison noted that the budget had projected a withdrawal of over \$1,200,000.00 from reserves for funding of several capitol items, however, no reduction of reserves was made during the year except for funds which were specifically set aside during the current year for insurance premiums, pension payments and other items. Harrison also noted that the NGEMC Business License Tax which had been received and held in escrow had not been included in those figures. The projected income for Water/Power/Sewer Fund \$27,690,361.00 and actual income of \$28,100,386.60 for a total budgeted income for both funds of \$37,214,990.00, and actual income for both funds being \$36,647,352.51. Budgeted expenses for all departments being \$37,214,990.00 and actual expenses for all departments being \$34,617,303.64. All departments were under budget, and the primary area they were under budget was in capitol expenditures. Harrison stated the difference between the actual income and actual expenses

was a little over \$2,000,000.00 with \$1,900,000.00 of those funds being set aside for the school. The GEFA Mauldin Road Plant modification was budgeted at \$679,800.00 with actual expenses of \$467,250.70. This project being funded by a loan through the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority. The SRF interceptors project had been amended to show no activity during the fiscal year 1993-94, and debt service accounts were primarily as budgeted.

- b. A first reading of an ordinance regarding the speed limit change for McConnel Road from 35 mph to 25 mph was given by Attorney Bailey. On a motion by Councilman Shelton and a 2nd by Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, the 2nd reading and passage of the speeding change ordinance was scheduled for September 12, 1994.
- c. Attorney Bailey stated that in order for the City to act on the request by Milton Stewart for exchange of permanent easements of property off Highway 136 as evidenced by a plat prepared by surveyors on behalf of Mr. Stewart, Attorney Bailey stated a notice would need to be published for four weeks with appraisals to be obtained which would indicate an equal value exchange or more than equal value for the City. Following discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Bond made a motion authorizing Attorney Bailey to proceed with the process, 2nd by Councilman McEntire with Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, Councilman McEntire, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- d. Attorney Bailey stated the Lease Agreement on the Fire Truck from AmSouth had been amended, and he expected those amendments to be forwarded to him by Wednesday. He read a resolution which the Mayor and Council could adopt with the understanding that the lease would be signed if those changes were made in accordance with Mr. Bailey's instructions. Following discussion, Councilman Shelton made a motion authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Lease Agreement with AmSouth for the fire truck pumper which had recently been purchased by the City of Calhoun, 2nd by Councilman Palmer with Councilman Shelton, Councilman Palmer, Councilman McEntire, and Mayor Pro-Tem Bond voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- e. Mayor Meadows stated the City of Calhoun had had the brush truck which had been used by the City for many years to break down, a new truck had been purchased, and it took several weeks to remove the grappling machinery from the old truck to the new truck and complete the welding. He stated during the interim, many residents had complained of lack of pickup of limbs and leaves, and that several residents continued to place limbs and leaves in the street rather than to the back of the sidewalk on the residential property as the codes called for, and that citizens continue to expect the City to pick up loads which are over the limit as described in an ordinance adopted some 16 months earlier. Following further discussion, the Council was in full agreement that the ordinance should be enforced, and those who violate the ordinance be issued a citation to appear in City Court.

7. New Business:

- a. A first reading of the request of the Waste Treatment Superintendent to have old pump screws, bearings and fittings declared as surplus property and authorize to sell for scrap metal was made. The Council asked that advertising be handled, and the property be declared as surplus with bids to be taken and reviewed at the next Council Meeting.

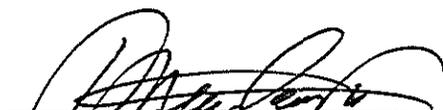
- b. A first reading of the Larry Thomason Zoning Variance Request for a lot off W.C. Bryant Parkway, East of Georgia Bank & Trust for a 20 ft. buffer off the rear which would allow the building to be set back further from the road allowing additional parking space on the front. Mayor Pro-Tem Bond made a motion to set the public hearing for September 12, 1994 at 7:00 P.M., 2nd by Councilman McEntire with Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, Councilman McEntire, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
  - c. A first reading of a Zoning Variance Request of Billy Cochran for a lot located at 1238 North Wall Street (at the corner of North Wall and Jolley Road) for a 13 ft. variance off Jolley Road to allow an addition to a restaurant. Councilman McEntire made a motion to set the public hearing for September 12, 1994 at 7:00 P.M., 2nd by Mayor Pro-Tem Bond with Councilman McEntire, Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
  - d. A first reading of an Annexation Ordinance Request of Bill Walraven and Stanley Simpson for .34 acres off Old Dixie Highway for C-2 zoning was given. Councilman McEntire made a motion to set the public hearing for September 12, 1994 at 7:00 P.M., 2nd by Councilman Shelton with Councilman McEntire, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Palmer and Mayor Pro-Tem Bond voting affirmatively, motion carried.
8. Other Written Items Not on the Agenda:
- a. Peterson stated that a truck for the Water Plant had been bid, and the truck was \$1,469.00 over budget. He stated the bids were Prater Ford \$17,469.00, Service Chevrolet \$17,628.00. He stated State contract prices would not be available until November, 1994. Following discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Bond made a motion to accept the low bid and to authorize the additional \$1,469.00 for the truck, 2nd by Councilman Palmer with Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, Councilman Palmer, Councilman Shelton and Councilman McEntire voting affirmatively, motion carried.
  - b. Mayor Meadows read a request from the First Corinthian Christian Church, which is to be located at the intersection of Court and Neal Street for a waiver of the building fee and sewer tap cost. Following discussion, Councilman McEntire made a motion to waive the building fee, and to charge only material cost on the sewer connection cost, 2nd by Mayor Pro-Tem Bond with Councilman McEntire, Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
  - c. Mayor Meadows stated the City Council supports the opportunity to have a referendum for the Local Option Sales Tax. He stated the Mayor and Council, as a united group endorse the sales tax. He stated that although some individuals would find one or two items which they felt was not appropriate for them, that that would not be a reason for voting no when eight or nine other items which were needed, and they felt should be funded, that this should outweigh the negatives that they felt were listed in the sales tax referendum.
9. Director Cornwell's Work Report:
- a. Cornwell stated that he and Harrison had discussed during budget time, and also following the assessment of the Police and Fire Departments, the appropriate way to handle additional education for City employees. He stated at present, there were approximately six people in

the Electric Department who were interested in obtaining additional educational courses at Dalton College, and at least two policemen who are pursuing Criminal Justice Degrees. He stated with the support of the Hope Scholarship Grant Program, he and Harrison requested the Mayor and Council agree for City employees who are obtaining additional education which is compatible with their occupation, the City fund any additional cost not covered by the Hope Grant if the student maintains a "B" average. The Council concurred in this recommendation.

- b. Cornwell stated the Electric budget did not include any funding for Christmas decorations, however, an individual in the Electric Department had patterned new Christmas decorations for the City, and with the purchase of \$5,000.00 of materials, he would make over the next 60 days, approximately 100 new decorations which can be used in the downtown area. The Council concurred with this, and asked that this be included in the January amendments to the budget.
  - c. Cornwell stated the sidewalk project in downtown Calhoun is the next project on line for the Street Department.
  - d. Mayor Meadows stated the Walmart traffic light which had been approved by DOT, approximately 18 months ago, based on individual petitions sent to the DOT by the City of Calhoun who had also requested a traffic signal at that area was being held up by the property owners who were required to pay for the light, and to do additional lane work at the site. He stated the owners of the property had been contacted some time ago, but had failed to respond to the Request. Cornwell stated the City of Calhoun had committed installation of the fixtures at an approximate cost of \$20,000.00, however, no work could be done until the property owners made a commitment to pay for the signals and the additional turning lanes which were required.
10. The Mayor and Council reviewed a city limit map which had been amended in a proposal arriving from the E911 assessment currently underway which would allow the City of Calhoun to provide additional fire and police protection for a defined area which would exceed the city limit area. Harrison stated the additional cost in terms of man power and equipment would exceed \$900,000.00 for the first year, and would also require additional fire hydrant installation in order to maintain the City's current ISO rating. The Mayor and Council stated that if the County was willing to subsidize the cost, they would be willing to enter into an agreement to provide the additional protection. The matter was to be referred back to the E911 Committee and to the County Commissioners.
11. Councilman McEntire made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mayor Pro-Tem Bond with Councilman McEntire, Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:

Submitted:

  
John D. Meadows, III  
Mayor

  
Cathy Harrison  
City Administrator

