



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 23, 2023- 7:00 PM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James F. Palmer, Mayor  
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilman  
Al Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ed Moyer, Councilman  
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilwoman – Arrived at 7:15 PM

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Tony Pyle, Police Chief; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Terry Mills, Deputy Fire Chief; and, Margaret Boyd, Purchasing Director.

**1. Council Meeting Called to Order**

**Welcome**

Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Invocation**

Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the invocation.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**3. Amendment or Approval of Proposed Agenda**

Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the January 23, 2023 agenda as presented. Councilman Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

**4. Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of January 9, 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments:**

A. **Quilts of Valor Presentation**

Mayor Palmer gave the floor to Patty Defoor of the Quilts of Valor Foundation honoring the following veterans: Mr. Ray Denmon; Mr. Charlie Kirby; and, Mr. Burton Fox. Following is the presentation speech given by Ms. Defoor: The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit organization. It is a volunteer workforce of over 10,000 fabric artists located in every state around the country. Founder Catherine Roberts was a blue star mother who had a son fighting in Iraq. She had a dream of a soldier sitting on the side of his bed struggling with the effects of war. Then she saw him wrapped in a quilt, calm and comforted. QOV was born from her dream and in her sewing room. She used her networks to connect those who pieced quilt tops with long arm quilters. Her desire was to see troops welcomed home with love and gratitude. Our mission has expanded from those first 100 quilts in 2003 to include all service members and veterans. 19 years later the organization has awarded (as of Dec 31, 2022), 336,061 quilts to veterans across the country.

We are here tonight to recognize and honor three city employees who served our country. Burton Fox served in the Navy from 1985-1989 entering service as an E-3 Seaman. He was stationed in San Diego for welding and firefighting school. He attended school in Portsmouth, VA for high pressure welding followed by assignment on the USS Raleigh - a landing pontoon craft. His rank at discharge was E-5 Second class Petty Officer. Ray Denmon served in the US Army and National Guard reserves for 33 years. Basic training was at Fort Jackson SC and AIT at Ft Sam Houston TX training as a Medic. He was stationed stateside with Stark Medical Command as a Medic. His rank at discharge was E-8 Master Sergeant. Charlie Kirby served with the Army from 1968-1970. His basic training was at Ft. Benning GA followed by AIT at Ft. Polk LA. He was deployed to Vietnam serving with the 101st Airborne trained in mortars. His rank at discharge was E-5 Sergeant.

I would like to tell you a bit about the quilt and what it means. The top of the quilt is made of many pieces of various designs, fabrics, sizes and shapes. Their variety represents the community that we are. We are all different, but we come together to make a unique togetherness. Each stitch that holds the tops together represent the love, gratitude and prayers as we design, cut and stitch the pieces together. The batting is the center of the quilt - its warmth. We hope this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace and healing to the veteran who receives it. The backing is the strength. It holds the many pieces of the quilt together. It represents the strength of the recipient, their family, our communities and our nation. Quilting is actually the term of stitching those three layers together and making it a usable gift of love.

This Quilt of Valor brings a three-part message. First, we honor you for your service. We honor you for leaving all you hold dear and to stand in harm's way in a time of crisis, protecting us from the effects of war. Next, our quilters know that freedom is not free. The cost of our freedom is the dedication of lives of men and women like you and this quilt is meant to say "Thank you" for your sacrifice. And finally, this quilt is meant to offer comfort and warmth to you and to remind you that although your family and friends cannot be with you at all times, you are in all of our thoughts and our hearts as we make an award the Quilt of Valor. As you are wrapped in your quilt and given a hug, know that the hug not only comes from us, but also from every member in the Quilts of Valor family across the country. On behalf of the Quilts of Valor Foundation and a grateful nation, with our deepest appreciation, we thank you

for your service to our country with this Quilt of Valor Award. I have one more thing for Charlie Kirby. It is the Vietnam Commemoration lapel pin. March 29th is now National Vietnam War Veterans Day. I have this pin and literature to present to you as well as a quote stating "every March 29 thereafter, we will honor all those who answered our Nation's call to duty.

We vow never again to confuse personal disapproval of war with prejudice against those who honorably wear the uniform of our Armed Forces. With conviction, our Nation pledges our enduring respect, our continuing care, and our everlasting commitment to all Vietnam veterans. Thank you. Welcome Home Gentlemen.

**B. Proclamation – Arbor Day 2023**

Mayor Palmer read a proclamation recognizing February 18<sup>th</sup> as Arbor Day in the City of Calhoun. This year's volunteers include Keep Calhoun Beautiful, Woman's Club, CHS Interact, Georgia Cumberland Academy, Gordon County 4-H, and Angie Gravitt's ROTA kids. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the proclamation. Councilmember Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

**6. Public Hearing and Comments:**

None

**7. Old Business:**

**A. Variance Request – Caruso & Drye Design – Parcel C65-034**

Mayor Palmer gave the Second reading of a variance request for a signage variance for sign area and sign quantity, varying from one maximum 25 square foot freestanding sign to two maximum 50 square foot free standing signs, for 7.40 acres located at 215 Curtis Parkway, NE (C65-034), by Caruso & Drye Design Group. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> and the public hearing on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Liquor Pouring – El Sol**

Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of a liquor pouring request at a location of 188 WC Bryant Parkway, by Jose Estrada, dba El Sol, Inc. Mr. Estrada is the owner and will also serve as the store manager. The public hearing will be held February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**8. New Business:**

**A. BWL Pouring – The Sweet Table**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer, wine and liquor pouring request at a location of 201 South Wall Street, by Brittney Bullock, dba The Sweet Table. Ms. Bullock is the owner and will also serve as the store manager. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to set the public hearing for February 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

**B. FY24 Budget Calendar**

Mayor Palmer stated that a motion was needed regarding the budget calendar for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Approval of the budget calendar will change the second meeting in June to June 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

C. **2023 Gordon County Local Emergency Operations Plan**

Mayor Palmer stated that a motion needed regarding the 2023 Gordon County Local Emergency Operations Plan, which has been reviewed by GEMA and approved by FEMA. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the Plan. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

9. **Other Written Items Not on the Agenda**

10. **Work Reports**

A. Paul Worley, City Administrator gave the December general cash report noting that the general fund checking account ended the month with a balance of \$6,244,017.64, which is an increase from \$4.2 million from last month. The 2018 Uncommitted SPLOST month end balance is \$3,456,802.63, and the Revolving Loan balance is \$546,375.99. We have an application for \$500,000 currently in review. Hotel/Motel tax for October, paid in December is \$70,068.65. This is a 22% decline from the \$90,000 collected for the same period last year. Overall, this is still a very good number. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the general cash report as submitted. Councilmember Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator gave the December utility cash report noting that the operating account, which includes electric, water and sewer, telecommunications, and utilities administration ended the month with a balance of \$8,08,251.74. Total savings and reserves were \$21,542,125.85. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the utilities cash report as submitted. Councilmember Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

C. George Govignon, City Attorney

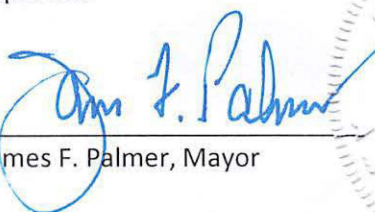
11. **Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed**

12. **Motion to return to General Session**

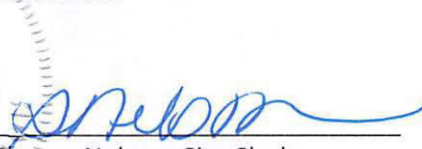
13. **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember Moyer made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Approved:

  
James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:

  
Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

