



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 22, 2021- 7:00 PM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

**MINUTES**

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor  
George R. Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilman  
Al Edwards, Councilman  
Jacqueline Palazzolo, Councilwoman

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; and Tony Pyle, Police Chief.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**

**Welcome**

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

**Invocation**

Mayor Palmer 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**

Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the March 22, 2021 agenda as presented.  
Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of March 8, 2021. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer stated that the unofficial results of the 1-cent ESPLOST continuation voted on during the March 16<sup>th</sup> Special Election show the City and County school

systems referendum passing with 949 YES votes out of a total of 1,260 votes cast, an approximate 75% approval rate.

**6. Public Hearing and Comments**

- A. Public hearing of a (tabled at March 8th meeting) zoning change request from Ind-G to TS (Tower Site) by Kiersten Lurer for Verizon Wireless for 10,000 square feet of 22.48 acres at a location of Hwy 53 (Parcel CG34A-065). The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held March 4th. City Attorney Govignon stated that Ms. Lurer has requested to table the item for a period of one additional month in order to have sufficient feedback from Verizon. The item will be placed on the April 26<sup>th</sup> agenda for consideration.

**7. New Business**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an ordinance to amend, strike or change certain articles, divisions and sections of Part II - Calhoun Code of Ordinances, Chapter 90 - Article V, Special Events Requiring Road Closings, to incorporate new procedures for all Special Event applications requiring road closures that fall within the geographic boundaries of the Calhoun Downtown Development District, requiring review from the Downtown Development Authority at the next regularly scheduled DDA meeting before recommendation to the Mayor and Council at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. The public hearing will be on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an ordinance to amend, strike or change certain articles, divisions and sections of Part II – Calhoun Code of Ordinance, Chapter 34 – Article II – Revolving Loan Program, changes include the ratio of jobs created to be no more than 1 per \$25,000 of loan funds, and to change the interest rate for applicants that inject equity equivalent of 25% of the funds requested from the program and the remaining 75% loaned from the RLF at an interest rate to be determined by the loan advisory commission based on prevailing market rates and approved by the Mayor and City Council. The public hearing will be on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of changes to the Revolving Loan Fund policies and procedures. Changes include the ratio of jobs created to be no more than 1 per \$25,000 of loan funds, removes the 10% interest rate for applicants in the private sector that cannot meet the 50% financing requirements to an interest rate of the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate plus 2%, and adds new DCA reporting requirements. City Administrator Worley stated that the 1 per \$25,000 ratio was a recommendation of the DCA and will help smaller business with fewer employees to qualify for a loan.

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

**9. Work Reports**

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator reviewed the February, 2021 general government cash report noting that the general fund balance was \$4,300,648.04, a very healthy balance for this time in the fiscal year. The 2018 SPLOST ended the month with a

balance of \$3,721,659.20. These monies have been saved to use toward the new police department and recreation maintenance building. Grading has started on the property. The 2011 SPLOST continues to reduce at \$726,895.78 as the Peters Street Phase II continues. Storm piping is currently being installed. The revolving loan fund has a balance of \$227,095.01 and we do have a pending loan of \$90,000 currently under DCA review. Hotel motel tax continues to trend up. February tax collected was \$56,081.13 which is down 6%, but up from the original 70% decrease in the tax last April during the peak of the pandemic shutdown.

- B. Mr. Worley also reviewed the February, 2021 utilities cash report noting that total operating revenues were \$5,420,038.75 and total savings and reserves were \$7,867,573.94. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve both reports. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- C. George Govignon, City Attorney had nothing to report.

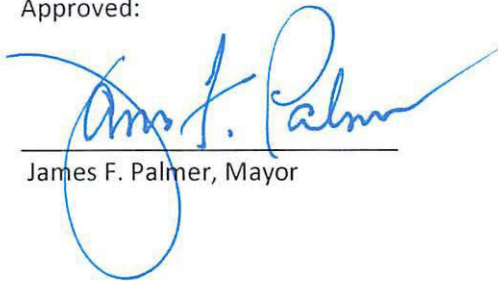
10. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

11. Motion to return to General Session

12. Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

