

**CITY OF CALHOUN
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
CALHOUN, GA
OCTOBER 1, 2007 6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

**PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Lorene Potts, Mayor Pro Tem
George Crowley, Councilman**

**ABSENT: Ray Denmon, Councilman
David Hammond, Councilman**

**ALSO: Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities
Eddie Peterson, City Administrator Elect
Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief
Dr. Michele Taylor, City School System Superintendent
Don Hood, City School System Director of Finance
Warren Weeks, Assistant City Superintendent
Cathy Harrison, City Administrator**

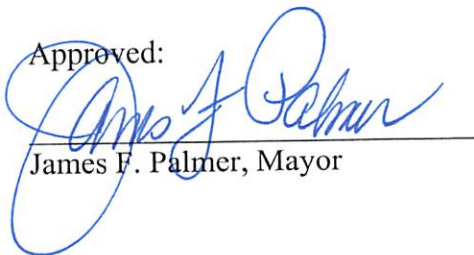
1. Mayor Palmer welcomed everyone to the special meeting and reviewed the purpose of the special meeting.
2. Mayor Palmer stated the Council Members have received a copy of the "Proposed Agenda" and asked if there was anything to be added or deleted. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the agenda as proposed. The motion was second by Mayor Pro Tem Potts with Councilman Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem Potts, and Mayor Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
3. Mayor Palmer said there were two items to come before the Council for consideration.
 - To review and determine the property tax millage for 2007
 - To determine whether or not to purchase one or more fire vehicles for the City Fire Department.
4. Mayor Palmer stated as it relates to item one, reviewing the City Property Tax Millage for 2007 he asked the City Administrator to review her proposal.
 - Administrator Harrison stated that based upon the proposed digest as submitted by the tax assessors office, there was considerable growth and most of the growth was true growth, and when comparing the results of the digest based upon rollback millage, she had determined that the City M&O dollars based on the rollback millage would result in all but \$109,163.00 of the city's proposed budget. She said as it relates to the city's school budget the rollback millage would result in all but \$77,957.00 of the school's proposed budget. Harrison stated in order to adopt the rollback millage, she had determined that her conservative calculation of the LOST balance would be higher than projected and there would be enough funds to cover the shortfall of the property tax for the city M&O. She stated she had spoken with the School Superintendent and Finance Director and they had stated the school would cover their shortfall of \$77,957.00. She stated therefore she would recommend the Mayor and

Council adopt the rollback millage which would be 1.615 for city M&O, which would be lower than the prior year's millage of 1.67 and she would recommend the city school millage of 14.080 compared to the prior year's millage of 14.580.

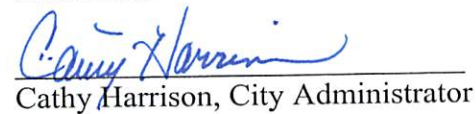
- Mayor Palmer asked if there were any questions regarding the recommendations by the City Administrator. There were none.
 - Mayor Palmer stated that if the Council agreed with the recommendation of the Administrator, he would entertain a motion for the city budget amendment of \$109,163.00 to be increased from LOST funds and a reduction of the city school allotment from the City by \$77,957.00.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Potts made a motion to approve the budget recommendations. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Mayor Pro Tem Potts, Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - Mayor Palmer stated he would entertain a motion to adopt the City M&O Tax Millage of 1.615 mills. Councilman Crowley made a motion to adopt the 2007 City M&O Tax Millage of 1.615. The motion was second by Mayor Pro Tem Potts with Councilman Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem Potts, and Mayor Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - Mayor Palmer stated he would entertain a motion to set the City School Millage at 14.080. Councilman Crowley made a motion to set the City School Millage at 14.080 for 2007. The motion was second by Mayor Pro Tem Potts with Councilman Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem Potts, and Mayor Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
5. Pertaining to the second item on the agenda, Mayor Palmer asked the Director of Public Safety, Eddie Peterson, and the Fire Chief, Lenny Nesbitt, to review the recommendations of the fire department.
- Chief Nesbitt stated he had appointed a seven member committee composed of members of his fire department personnel as well as the deputy chief and himself. They had visited several cities and reviewed several vehicles in operation. He stated their best option was to purchase a Sutphen Pumper Truck for \$392,733.00. He stated the company had been in business since 1890 and they provide quality vehicles.
 - Director of Public Safety Peterson stated the city's ladder truck, primarily due to age, had been classified as not being eligible as an online vehicle but could be a reserve vehicle only. He stated the Fire Chief had contacted Dalton and Bartow County and they agreed to provide ladder truck services for fire calls for a period of time until a new ladder truck could be purchased by the City of Calhoun. He stated the department has found a ladder truck from the Sutphen Company that had been used as a demonstrator and could be purchased with full warranties for a lower price than a full new vehicle. He stated the price would be \$694,872.00. He stated he, along with the fire department management personnel, recommended the purchase of the ladder truck as well as the pumper.
 - Mayor Palmer asked the Administrator to review possible methods of financing.
 - Administrator Harrison stated that since interest rates are lower at this time, she would recommend the city utilize a lease purchase agreement as used in the past for fire vehicles for a 5-7 year duration since fire trucks have a life of 20 years or more and that the city request bids from the local banks for the lease purchase for both vehicles even though the pumper financing will not be needed for 10-12 months. She stated an advance could be made against the loan for the ladder truck as soon as it is

- ready for purchase and for the pumper truck when it is complete and ready for purchase.
- Mayor Palmer stated the members of the Council have heard the recommendations of the fire personnel and the possible financing method from the City Administrator and he asked if there was a motion concerning the matter.
 - Councilman Crowley made a motion to authorize purchase of the two vehicles as recommended by the fire department personnel. The motion was second by Mayor Pro Tem Potts with Councilman Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem Potts, and Mayor Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - Mayor Palmer stated he would entertain a motion regarding the financing of the vehicles.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Potts stated she would recommend the lease purchase as reviewed by the City Administrator through the local banks. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Mayor Pro Tem Potts, Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - Mayor Palmer stated he would need a motion authorizing him to sign all the necessary documents related to the lease purchase.
 - Councilman Crowley made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign all required documents associated with the lease purchase of the fire vehicle as authorized. The motion was second by Mayor Pro Tem Potts with Councilman Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem Potts, and Mayor Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
6. Mayor Palmer stated since Director of Utilities Kelly Cornwell was present he would ask him, for information purposes, to comment on the State's latest drought findings.
- Director of Utilities Cornwell stated that on Friday September 28, the state EPD and Drought Commission had determined that due to the severity of the drought that level 4 would be imposed on for the 61 North Georgia Counties and this requirement would include no outside watering. He stated this was to be effective immediately.
7. Mayor Pro Tem Potts made a motion to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Mayor Pro Tem Potts, Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Cathy Harrison, City Administrator