

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
CALHOUN, GA
DECEMBER 10, 2007 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

ABSENT: Ray Denmon, Councilman

**ALSO: William P. Bailey, City Attorney
Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities
Eddie Peterson, City Administrator Elect
Cathy Harrison, City Administrator**

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Councilman Crowley gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the proposed agenda as written. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Councilman Hammond, Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
4. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 regular City Council meeting as written. The motion was second by Councilman Hammond with Councilman Crowley, Councilman Hammond, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
5. **Mayors Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer thanked the 655 citizens who voted on December 4, 2007 in the City School Board run-off election. He also congratulated Matt Barton upon his election.
 - B. Mayor Palmer reminded everyone the last Council meeting for December 2007 was moved to December 17, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. due to the holidays.
 - C. Mayor Palmer stated based upon the City's Charter that requires newly elected officials be sworn within 60 days of the election and due to the lateness of the first meeting in January 2008, the last item on the December 17, 2007 agenda will be the swearing in of the new officials, for the City and City School Board.
 - D. Mayor Palmer announced there will be a public hearing regarding the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan on December 17, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. He stated this action is possible since the Coosa Valley RDC and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs have approved the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Calhoun as well as Gordon County.

- E. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of the Mayor's Day meeting in January 2008 in Atlanta and reminded everyone of the importance of the meeting.
- F. Mayor Palmer asked Mayor Pro Tem Potts to review the zoning hearings scheduled for January 14, 2007.
 - 1. Annexation and Zoning request of C-2 for two lots on Kelly Court off of Hwy 41 South by Four Star, LLC.

6. **Council Comments:**

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Potts gave the November reports as follows:

1) The Street Department:

- Did routine maintenance of street sweeping, vacuuming leaves, and picking up brush
- Completed 20 shop work orders
- Ran storm water maintenance plan on November 15
- Checked all grates and pipes
- Backfilled all remaining sidewalks at the 58 acre recreation park
- Dug out, based, and poured a 50x12 driveway apron at the George Chambers Resource Center off Hwy 53 that allows a second entrance into the new park near the playground and pavilion
- Installed 180 feet of 15" pipe
- Build a 24x24 storm water box at the lower portion of the new road leading in from the center
- Widened the entrance road into the park at the center to expand it to three 10 ft. lanes, that were approved by the Department of Transportation
- Dug out and patched streets on North Industrial Boulevard, Forest Heights, and Kirby road utilizing 7.18 tons of asphalt
- Cut brush along the banks of CL Moss Parkway at the soccer field
- Utilized SPLOST funds and DOT funds to pave Kent Lane, York Place, and Norman D. Lane

2) The Parks and Maintenance Department:

- Provided routine maintenance of picking up liter, mowing, weed-eating, and cleaning up leaves at all City departments
- Completed maintenance jobs for City Hall, Purchasing Department, The Depot, and The Library
- Painted the interior and exterior of the restrooms and finished placing the decking and singles at the new recreation pavilion at the 58 acre park
- Assisted with placing Christmas decorations

4) Cemetery Department:

- Supervised the opening and closing of 8 grave sites
- Sold 22 new grave spaces
- Assisted Contractors with installation of 6 new monuments

5) Animal Control:

- Housed 14 dogs and 12 cats
- Responded to 47 customer calls
- Issued 1 warning for lease law violations

- 6) Safety Committee:
 - Had a safety topic of Musculoskeletal problems
 - Inspected Sewer Plant on November 13th
 - Reported 2 workers compensation accidents
 - Reported 2 vehicle accidents

- B. Mayor Palmer stated Councilman Denmon was on duty at the National Guard and was unable to attend, therefore he would provide his November reports as follows:
 - 1) The Water Treatment Plant Facility:
 - Pumped a total of 304,290, 000 gallons of water for a daily average of 10.14 million gallons - this is down considerably from 2006, when the City pumped an average of 11.7 million gallons per day

 - 2) The Waste Treatment Plant:
 - Treated a daily average of 4.294 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 14, and an average COD effluent of 46 which is also down considerably from 2006

 - 3) The Water Construction Department:
 - Made 18 water connections.
 - Changed out 6 new meters.
 - Repaired 47 water leaks
 - Installed 2,160 feet of 12" PVC pipe
 - Installed 3,060 feet of 2" PVC pipe
 - Received and responded to 50 calls at the shop
 - Provided 398 locates for developers
 - Called in 86 locates for the City

 - 4) The Sewer Construction Department:
 - Provided 6 sewer connections during the month
 - Serviced 11 sewer services lines
 - Repaired 3 manholes
 - Inspected 16 sewer mains for a total of 4,054 feet
 - Inspected 11 sewer service line for a total of 1,400 feet
 - Provided 304 locates for developers
 - Repaired 3 lift stations
 - Responded to 15 calls for service
 - Cleaned 20 sewer lines totaling 6,000 feet
 - Opened and inspected 47 manholes
 - Installed 400 feet of 4" sewer line to the new pavilion at the 58 acre park site

 - 5) The Sludge Department:
 - Applied 1,920 cubic yards representing 260.4 dry tons of sludge

 - 6) Building Inspection Department:
 - Issued 47 permits for an estimated 1.50 million dollars of new construction. This included 4 new residential housing, 3 housing remodels, 1 new industrial, and 141 inspections

C. Councilman Crowley gave his November reports as follows:

1) The Electric Department:

Long Term Projects Under Construction:

- Continued to upgrade the older clarifiers and thickeners under construction at the Waste Treatment Plant. The project remains approximately 80% complete.
- Phase II of the System Loss Program for 2007-2008; Engineering Revision Phase is complete.
- The final phase of System Reliability Project is in progress

Projects and Maintenance Under Construction:

- The primary lines for the new recreation project has been completed
- The Avalon Estates Subdivision continues under construction
- Pad Mount transformer and service installation for the Salem Road pump station
- New projects for Magnolia Plaza and Willow Brook remain under construction
- Provided electric service for the new DFCS building on Mauldin Road
- The Harmony Square lighting project is complete
- Christmas lights and decorations have been installed

Work Orders in Process or Completed for October:

- Street and security lighting – 42
- New business and maintenance – 40
- After hours trouble callouts – 21

2) Telecommunications Department:

- Installed phones and computers for the new utility call center
- Installed new internet connections for Mannington
- Moved demarcation for Foam Products
- Terminated multi-mode fiber for Apache Mills
- Rebuilt the e-mail server
- Moved and re-spliced fiber for Gordon County's new jail site.
- Opened 16 and closed 14 work orders

During the Month of November the GIS Department:

- The GIS area created a new zoning map with the most recent RDC data
- Installed GIS software at City Hall
- Trained users to edit the zoning map
- Installed GIS software at Electric and Water/Sewer engineering and began training
- Started developing conversion procedures to convert the auto cad files to GIS format

During the Month of October the Electric Department:

- Performed 22 inspections
- Set 7 meters
- Purchased over 30 million KWH of electricity

3) City School Report:

- The high school cheerleaders earned the State Championship title for the second year
- He announced there would be a reception at the school on January 15th from 5:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. honoring Al Edwards
- The City of Calhoun School Board welcomes a new member, Matt Barton

- The School Board acknowledged they are united in their opposition to the Great Plan – HR900 Legislation.
 - The school reminded the citizens that Private Tanara Gordon of Calhoun High School is serving in Iraq, she was a 2004 graduate. Kevin Clark also a graduate of Calhoun High School is now serving in Iraq.
- D. Councilman Hammond gave the November reports as follows:
- 1) The Coosa Valley RDC:
 - Reviewed the City and County Comprehension Plans and forwarded those on to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review.
 - Their workforce retraining area worked with 9 out of the 14 communities in North Georgia since there were 14,068 lost during the past year with 370 being at Springs Industries
 - 2) The Police Department:
 - Made 628 cases with 10 DUI's
 - Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$68,788.00
 - Issued 444 warnings
 - Investigated 79 highway accidents and 38 private property accidents
 - Provided 122 escorts
 - Filed 1,610 incidents reports
 - Responded to 237 alarms
 - Patrolled 56,048 miles
 - Responded to 7,764 calls for service by E-911
 - 3) The Fire Department:
 - Responded to 76 calls for service, 7 fire incidents for damages totaling \$7,100.00
 - Responded to 29 emergency medical service calls with 19 injuries and 1 fatality
 - Responded to 8 hazardous conditions incidents
 - Responded to 10 miscellaneous service calls, 3 good intent, 15 false alarms, and 4 special incident
 - Installed street markers for fire hydrants
 - Completed in-house training during the month for all firefighters on State required core skills along with additional Department training
 - Completed all scheduled station and vehicle maintenance
 - 4) Fire Inspection Department:
 - Provided 32 inspections during the month: 6 annual, 4 new business, 11 requested, 4 follow-up re-inspections, 7 consultations
 - Attended 1 plan review
 - Attended 1 pre construction meeting
 - Issued 1 sprinkler permit
 - Attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting (LEPC)
 - Both inspectors attended a 40 hour class (Fire Inspector 1) in Forsyth at the State Training Center completing their basic inspection requirements
 - Attended Northwest Georgia Fire Investigators Association meeting

7. **Zoning and other Public Hearings:**

A. Mayor Palmer stated at this time the public hearing on zoning matters will be held. The public will have an opportunity to make pro and con comments with a ten minute maximum time limit for each side of the matter and with each person speaking giving their name and address and with each person speaking having filed a financial disclosure statement five days prior to the hearing if required. Mayor Palmer made an inquiry to determine if any elected official has filed or needed to file a disclosure statement regarding any ownership or special interest in the agenda item. There were none. Mayor Palmer stated that the land use maps are on display at the Council Chambers for both the Zoning Advisory Board and the City Council hearings and the Council members have a copy of the Zoning Minutes from the latest Zoning Advisory Board Meeting.

1. Mayor Palmer gave a second reading of an annexation and C-2 zoning request of Grado Inc. for four acres off of Hwy 53 East.
 - o The public hearing was opened
 - o Harrison stated notices to the adjoining property owners, signs on the property and notices to the local legal organ were completed
 - o Mayor Pro Tem Potts stated the Zoning Advisory Board members reviewed the item on December 6, 2007 at 4:30 P.M. She stated members of the Housing Authority attended the meeting and had several questions regarding how the development and project would work. They were concerned regarding drainage and parking. Mayor Pro Tem Potts stated the developer would be required to provide an engineering plan for drainage and would also be required to meet all codes prior to the issuance of a building permit. Mayor Pro Tem Potts stated following the Zoning Advisory Board hearing, they had recommended to the Mayor and Council that the property be annexed and be zoned C-2.
 - o Mayor Palmer asked if there were any comments by the applicant.
 - o Terry Brumlow, attorney for the developers, provided the Mayor and Council with a map that clearly identified the location of the property and the surrounding area. He stated the developer will build a facility for the owners of El Nopal and it would be a quality restaurant. He stated the remaining two acres are to be annexed but they are not scheduled for development at this time.
 - o Mayor Palmer asked if there were any comments by the public. There were none.
 - o The public hearing was closed.
 - o The findings of the Mayor and Council were:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) The zoning proposal will permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of the adjacent and nearby property.(2) The zoning proposal will not adversely affect the existing use or usability of the adjacent or nearby properties.(3) The property has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned.(4) The zoning proposal will result in additional traffic on existing streets; however, it will not impact utilities or schools.(5) The capital expense associated with the development of the property will be incurred by the developer.(6) The zoning proposal is in conformity with the policy and intent of the land use plan. |
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- (7) There are no other existing or changing conditions effecting the use and development of the property which would give supporting grounds for their approval or disapproval of the zoning proposal.
- (8) There are no other factors relevant to balancing the interest in promoting the public health, safety, morality, or general welfare against the right to the unrestricted use of the property other than the property is currently a semi-island to the City limit area.

- o Mayor Pro Tem Potts made a motion to approve the annexation request for the 4 acres off of Hwy 53, East. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Mayor Pro Tem Potts, Councilman Crowley and Councilman Hammond voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- o Mayor Pro Tem Potts made a motion to zone the annexed property C-2 commercial. The motion was second by Councilman Hammond with Mayor Pro Tem Potts, Councilman Hammond, and Councilman Crowley voting affirmatively, motion carried.

B. Other Hearings and Public Comments: NONE

8. **Old Business:**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave a second reading of the late Pawn Renewal License requests
 1. Douglas Driscoll for Park Avenue Pawn & Jewelry
 2. Hugh M. Austin for Title Exchange and Pawn
 - o Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the renewals for 2008, second by Councilman Crowley with Councilman Hammond, Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave a second reading of the late Taxi Renewal License request
 1. Maria de la lust Palmer in-Vega for Taxi Guerrero
 - o Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the renewal for 2008, second by Councilman Hammond with Councilman Crowley, Councilman Hammond, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave a second reading of the Beer-Wine-Liquor License renewal request for 2008
 1. Ian B. Wondering for Ruby Tuesday
 2. Karen Aldridge for the Pantry, Inc. d/b/a Kangaroo Express # 3513
 3. Karen Aldridge for the Pantry, Inc. d/b/a Kangaroo Express # 3563
 4. Karen Aldridge for the Pantry, Inc. d/b/a Kangaroo Express # 3519
 5. Med hat Karoo for LSAS, LLC d/b/a Sam's Mart #530
 - o Mayor Pro Tem Potts made a motion to approve the renewals for 2008, second by Councilman Crowley with Mayor Pro Tem Potts, Councilman Crowley, and Councilman Hammond voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- D. Election Report:
 - o Election Superintendent Harrison stated the official number of voters were 655. There were no provisional ballots and the final result was 422 votes for Matt Barton and 233 for Trey Pierson.

9. **New Business:**

- A. Mayor Palmer read a request for an address change by Taxi Brito's for their proposed location at 129 Kelly Court, Suite C
 - o Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the request. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Councilman Hammond,

Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

- B. Mayor Palmer stated at the work session, David Harrison of the New Echota River Alliance had reviewed a proposed Resolution for the Mayor and Council to consider for adoption regarding requesting the State to fully fund Regional and State water plans and monitoring and to address basin transfers.
- o Mayor Palmer stated after a lengthy discussion with Mr. Harrison, they explained that Councilman Crowley served on the State Water Planning Group and Kelly Cornwell serves on the Executive Committee for the Regional Planning Group and they felt at this it would not be appropriate to adopt a Resolution but to wait and determine what action the State takes and then reconsider.
 - o Councilman Crowley and Councilman Hammond expressed their concern for encouraging the State to adopt procedures and policy that will allow proper scientific data to be collected in order for all to make proper decisions regarding water and water quality.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave a first reading of the late Late Taxi and Alcohol renewal request for 2008. He stated these are eligible to voted on December 17, 2007.

Taxi

1. Lilia Haygood for Glendy's Taxi

Beer-Wine-Liquor

1. Ricky Patterson for Patterson Wilson Enterprises d/b/a Too Tall Paul's
2. Jamil Abraham for Maya, Inc. d/b/a Atlanta Gate Restaurant

- D. Mayor Palmer stated at the work session, Jimmy Mathews of Starr Mathews had reviewed the renewal proposals from Travelers and Utica regarding the general liability, property and vehicle coverage for both the City and the City School System. He stated these were down approximately 15% and premiums for the prior year. The reduction was based upon the City's record for the prior year and also upon the soft market for insurance. He stated effective January 1, 2008 the State will require the City's automobile policy coverage to have a \$750,000 liability limit and this additional coverage will cost the City \$4,136 in addition to the quoted premium for the City for all combined coverage of \$368,585 and for the School for their combined coverage of \$107,852.
- o Following discussion Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve and to authorize coverage effective upon the expiration of the December 12, 2007 policy. The motion was second by Councilman Hammond with Councilman Crowley, Councilman Hammond, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

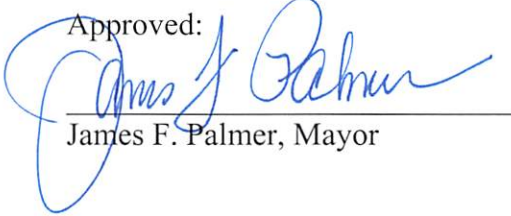
10. **Other Written Items Not on the Agenda: None**

11. **Work Reports:**

- A. Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities: No Report
B. Eddie Peterson, Director of Public Safety/Public Works:
1. Peterson stated that the Streetscape Project that has been ongoing is in the position to send out bids for the work that will provide the third phase of the Streetscape Project and will include sidewalk improvements on the Westside of Highway 41 from Line Street to Hicks Street. He stated he hopes the bids can be let in approximately 4 weeks and the project will take approximately 90 days and will require 20% matching funds.

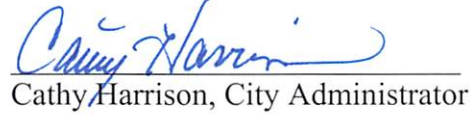
12. Mayor Palmer stated there was no need to move to Executive Session.
13. Councilman Crowley made a motion to adjourn, second by Mayor Pro Tem Potts with Councilman Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem Potts, and Councilman Hammond voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Cathy Harrison, City Administrator