

**CITY OF CALHOUN  
SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET  
CALHOUN, GA  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2005, 11:30 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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

**ALSO: Cathy Harrison, City Administrator  
Charles Dillard, Sunset Hills Resident**

1. Mayor Palmer stated the purpose of the meeting was to open a public hearing regarding the City's proposed tax increase for City M&O Millage, the first increase in eight years.
2. Mayor Palmer stated the City of Calhoun adopted its budget in June 2005 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005 and continuing through June 30, 2006. He stated included in the revenue projections was the first advalorem tax increase for the City's maintenance and operation in eight years. The increase is advertised as a 19.05% increase from the rollback millage. The actual increase in tax dollars is \$205,270.00. The increase is necessary due to the increased operating cost associated with the 49% population growth in the last ten year Census period and has continued each year following 2000.

The City's public safety areas, police and fire have increased operating cost of over 69%, public works has increased operating cost over 91% and recreation has an increased operating cost over 134% all within the last eight years.

Mayor Palmer stated elected officials, staff and employees continually strive to keep all level of operating cost as low as possible. However, increases in materials and labor are factors associated with a growing community that are addressed each budget year. He stated the City of Calhoun will continue to provide the best service for the lowest dollar possible for the citizens of Calhoun.

Mayor Palmer stated although the tax increase in mills for the City is scheduled to increase, it increases from 1.5 mills to 1.75 mills. However, the millage rate for the prior year was 16.45 mills for the City M&O and the City School. However, this year, even with City's increase the actual total millage will drop to 15.41 mills.

A citizen of Calhoun, Mr. Charles Dillard of Sunset Hills attended the meeting. Mr. Dillard asked questions regarding replacement and upgrades of infrastructure in some of the older sections of the community. He asked questions regarding sewer extensions

into the County, questioning if these extensions would be at the expense of City residents, as it relates to subdivisions. He also asked general questions regarding growth.

Mayor Palmer and members of the Council responded with information regarding sewer extensions and replacement policy for the City. Mayor Palmer explained in the last few years some of the older infrastructure in the system has been replaced for both water and sewer for the downtown area and in the Mill Village area. He stated there are portions of the system that are replaced each year.

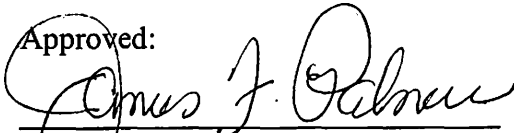
Council members reviewed the upgrade in the water and sewer connection fees that act in lieu of impact fees for water and sewer that have been established to offset development cost.

The Council reviewed the fact that the City and County are presently providing a Comprehensive Plan that will be developed over the next eighteen months. It will include a study to determine if the City is a good candidate for implementing an impact fee for other capital expenditures, such as public safety.

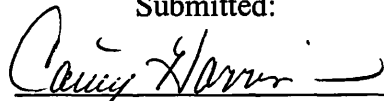
Mayor Palmer stated each item that Mr. Dillard referred to has been addressed in our budget and planning meetings. Mayor Palmer expressed appreciation to Mr. Dillard for his concern and excellent questions and observations.

3. There were no additional questions and the public hearing was closed at approximately 12:15 P.M.

Approved:

  
James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:

  
Cathy Harrison, City Administrator