

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
MARCH 13, 2000**

MINUTES

**PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ronald H. Woods, Mayor Pro Tem
John D. Shelton, Jr., Councilman
Ray M. Denmon, Councilman
Lorene Potts, Councilwoman**

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

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Mayor Palmer gave the Invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Minutes of the February 28, 2000 regular City Council meeting were approved as written.
4. Mayor's Comments:
 - a. Mayor Palmer announced there would be a beer and wine pouring license request hearing on April 10, 2000 for the Cruiser's Restaurant located near the former Best Western Motel on Highway 41 North.
 - b. Mayor Palmer announced the House Bill 489 mediation meetings will begin March 15 and continue on the 16th and 17th at the Fellowship Hall of the First Methodist Church at 10:00 A.M.
 - c. Mayor Palmer announced the Georgia Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on April 4, 2000 from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. at the Depot on the North 41 Highway project, which will span from West Line Street to Red Bud Road.
 - d. Mayor Palmer announced that Census Forms had been mailed or delivered to residents in the Calhoun-Gordon County area. He encouraged everyone to complete the forms and return. He stated this is essential for the community to receive its share of state and federal funds over the next ten-year period. He announced that the City of Calhoun has trained personnel, who will be able to assist residents with the completion of forms.
 - e. Mayor Palmer announced the City has received notice that it has been awarded a \$21,000.00 grant for equipment for the water treatment plant. This grant will be to purchase new equipment for fluoride for the system.
5. Council Comments:
 - a. Mayor Pro Tem Woods stated:
 - 1) The Electric Department sold a total of 26,225,828 kWh of electricity during the month of February 2000, to a customer base of 4,041.
 - b. Councilman Shelton stated:
 - 1) The Police Department made 263 cases, of which 10 were UI's. They collected over \$50,939.00 in fines, issued 45 warning tickets and 693 parking tickets, and investigated 110 accidents, including accidents with 17 injuries. They provided 74 escorts and responded to 107 burglar alarms.
 - 2) The Fire Department responded to 64 fire calls during February, with total estimated damages of \$15,000.00. They responded to 25 EMS assistance calls, in which there were two fatalities. They provided 40 inspections and also assisted the Building Inspector with illegal signs located within the City. The Fire Department personnel continued training regarding sprinklers and alarms. They met with other regional members on regional HazMat coordinating efforts. They also provided safety meetings at Gold Kist Mills.
 - c. Councilman Denmon stated:

- 1) The Water Treatment Plant treated a daily average of 11.504 MGD during the month of February. Well number 3 pumped an average of 1.44 MGD.
 - 2) The Waste Treatment Plant treated a daily average of 8.816 MGD, with BOD effluent being 13, suspended effluent 21, and COD effluent 122.
 - 3) The Water and Sewer Construction Department completed 34 water taps and 3 sewer taps during the month. They installed 4,700 feet of 8-inch water line along Belwood Road and installed 350 feet of 2-inch line along Thomas Bluff Road.
- d. Councilwoman Potts stated:
- 1) The Street Department rebuilt three storm water boxes on Fain Street, patched Fain Street and the back lot of Gordon Hills, Forest Heights, Cherry Street, Reeves Street, Dale Avenue and Victory Drive. They used 61.08 tons of asphalt for preparation of the LARP contract. They planted and mulched 163 evergreen trees at the River Park Substation. They built up shoulders of roads, installed asphalt berms along driveways, and poured 314 feet of freestanding concrete curb on Victory Drive. They hauled shrubs that were around the caboose at the Depot to the Golf Course and filled the holes with topsoil. They extended and repaired two 24-inch storm water pipes and dug out ditches on Carter Street, cut and hauled off large trees from Hicks Street and Dale Avenue, built storm water box and extended pipe and poured back section of curb on River Meadow Court. They ran the brush truck, street sweeper and leaf vacuum routes, hauled 99 loads of stone and completed 38 shop orders.
 - 2) The Cemetery Department located 17 burial sites for grave contractors during the month of February.
 - 3) The Safety Committee provided an inspection at Fields Ferry Golf Course and provided 20 safety recommendations to the department.
 - 4) Animal Control housed 42 dogs and 18 cats during the month of February. They issued 5 first warnings and 3 second warnings.
6. Public Hearings:
- a. Mayor Palmer announced that only one zoning item was on the agenda. However, that item, which consisted of an application filed by William and Diane Twilley for a zoning variance to locate a mobile home at 109 Adair Street, had been withdrawn by the applicants.
 - b. Other Hearings:
 - 1) Mayor Palmer stated at this time, a public hearing on the railroad crossing closures for Chandler Street and Jolly Road was open. He asked for a report from Eddie Peterson. Mr. Peterson stated that all property owners near those areas had been notified by mail of the proposed closures. The Street Department is continually looking for ways to improve the City's transportation system, and safety is a vital part of this review. Mr. Peterson stated the Street Department is working with the Department of Transportation and with the railroad, regarding these proposed closures and improvements to the Fain Street railroad crossing. Mayor Palmer stated the Council would now entertain comments from the public.
 - a) Stanley Simpson, who is a property owner in the area of the Jolly Road railroad crossing, stated he was concerned about the width of Jolly Road. He stated garbage trucks and other large emergency vehicles are finding it hard to utilize the road. He stated he owns property on both sides of the road and he would be willing to donate property for the road to be widened. Eddie Peterson stated this would be a matter that will be addressed as the study for closing the road is considered.
 - b) Mr. Hall stated he felt the railroad crossing, if it remained open, would need crossing bars.
 - c) There were no other comments.
 - 2) Mayor Palmer stated that in order for the public to have proper input on this important matter, he would continue the hearing until March 27.
7. Old Business: **none.**
8. New Business:
- a. Mayor Palmer gave a first reading of two amusement license applications:

- 1) Larry Manasreh for the Fina Grocery (formerly R & R) at 400 West Line Street.
 - 2) Lori Knight & Becky Temple, 903 South Wall Street.
Mayor Palmer stated both would be available for a second reading and consideration on March 27, 2000 at 7:00 P.M.
 - b. Mayor Palmer stated Gordon Hospital had requested a road closing for a portion of Curtis Parkway between Red Bud Road and Dews Pond Road for a two-hour period on May 11, 2000, from 5:30 P.M. until 7:30 P.M., for their traditional Hospital Fun Run. He stated this was the route previously taken on several of their traditional Fun Runs. Following discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to approve the closing as requested, second by Councilman Shelton, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Denmon and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - c. A first reading was given of a request for new zoning of R-1 and annexation by Charles and Martha Kessler, Jr., for 293 Shadowood Lane S.E. Councilman Denmon made a motion to set the public hearing for April 10, 2000 at 7:00 P.M., second by Councilman Shelton, with Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton, Councilwoman Potts and Mayor Pro Tem Woods voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - d. A first reading was given of a request for new zoning of Industrial-G and annexation by Jack May and Melton May for approximately 10 acres off Highway 41 South. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to set the public hearing for April 10, 2000 at 7:00 P.M., second by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - e. A reading was given of a traditional parade permit request for a Shrine Parade on May 20, 2000 at 11:00 A.M., for the traditional route, plus one block south. Mayor Palmer stated the Shriners would have a special parade marshal, Police Chief Willie Mitchell, in honor of his retirement. Following discussion, Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the request, subject to D.O.T. approval, second by Mayor Pro Tem Woods, with Councilman Denmon, Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - f. A first reading was given of a zoning variance request by Gold's Gym, Pam Stephens, for a sign to be located off 610 Red Bud Road. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to set the public hearing for April 10, 2000 at 7:00 P.M., second by Councilman Shelton, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Denmon and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - g. Mayor Palmer stated that in reference to the zoning variance request previously filed by Gordon County, Georgia for relocation of a sign at 196 Belwood Road, the is requested to be tabled by Gordon County. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to table the matter as requested, second by Councilman Shelton, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Denmon and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - h. Mayor Palmer stated the City of Calhoun has been in negotiations with Shell Energy Natural Gas for several months, to determine the possibility of a contract, which would allow the City of Calhoun to provide collection services and customer service for Shell Energy. Director Cornwell stated the proposed contract that is available from Shell has addressed several areas of concern and it is the City's understanding that the remaining three or four items, which were small items, have been addressed by both parties and will be addressed in the final proposed draft. He stated that based upon the weeks of negotiations and upon the conclusions that had been reached by both Shell Energy and the City of Calhoun, and based upon the reliability of the company, it would be the staff recommendation to approve the final contract, subject to review by the City Attorney. Following discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to approve the Shell Energy Natural Gas contract, subject to attorney review, second by Councilman Shelton, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Denmon and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
9. Other Items Not On the Agenda:
- a. A first reading was given of a request for new zoning of R-2 and annexation of Alex Feagin, for approximately 2.5 acres off North Drive. The request is for

construction of duplexes or townhouses. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to set the public hearing for April 10, 2000 at 7:00 P.M., second by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

10. Report of Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities and Public Works:
 - a. Director Cornwell stated the Waste Treatment Plant is perfecting a new odor control system that will be installed shortly.
 - b. Assistant Director Peterson reported the Review Committee, composed of himself, Linda Brookshire from Human Resources, Councilman Shelton and Lester Rampy had reviewed the total of 21 applications received for the position of Police Chief up through February 18, 2000. The committee has narrowed those applications down to ten and has held ten interviews. The group will continue to review the situation and the applications and will forward a report to the Mayor and Council within the next 60 days.
11. Mayor Palmer inquired if there was a need to move to executive session. The response was negative.
12. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to adjourn, second by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:

Submitted:


James F. Palmer, Mayor


Cathy Harrison, City Administrator