

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

**PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
David Hammond, Mayor Pro Tem
Al Edwards, Councilman
Matt Barton, Councilman
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilwoman**

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; George Govignon, City Attorney; Paul Worley, City Clerk; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Danny Stephens, Water Treatment Superintendent; Kim Townsend, Recreation Director

- 1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
A. Councilman Edwards gave the invocation.**
- 2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.**
- 3. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the proposed agenda. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.**
- 4. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the September 12, 2016 Executive Session minutes. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
- 5. Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer read a Red Ribbon Week Proclamation submitted by the Greater Rome Young Marines. After the reading, Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
 - B. Mayor Palmer recognized the Blue Barracudas for their accomplishments at the GRPA District and State Swim meets. The many accomplishments included three state records, 17 state titles, first place boys team, fourth place girls team, and third overall.**
- 6. Public Hearings and Comments: None**
- 7. Old Business:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer read a resolution requesting updated regulations of methods of oil and gas extraction, specifically including hydraulic and acidic fracturing within the State of Georgia. Mayor Palmer stated that he had talked with State Representative John**

Meadows and Rep. Meadows is planning on talking to more people about the issue at the State level. Rep. Meadows had complimented Joe Cook with the Coosa River Basin Initiative for his professionalism and dedication. Mayor Palmer and the Council thanked the group of advocates for the Resolution who were in attendance.

Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the Resolution as read.

Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

(resolution attached) Ed Weldon stated that several other local governments had also adopted the resolution such as Chickamauga, Chatsworth, Rome, Floyd County, Ringgold, Fort Oglethorpe, and Gordon County.

- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of an annexation and zoning request of C-2 for 2.42 acres at Parcel #057B-096 and 0.78 acres at Parcel #057A-134A by Phillip Sloan. The Zoning Advisory Board is scheduled for October 6, 2016. The Public Hearing will be on October 10, 2016.
- C. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of an annexation and zoning request of Ind-G for 2.57 acres at a location of 594 Richardson Road by Haley Stephens. The Zoning Advisory Board is scheduled for October 6, 2016. The Public Hearing will be on October 10, 2016.
- D. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a variance request by Fred Milland at a location of 594 Richardson Road. The variance request is a 20 foot variance from the required 35 foot front setback for a proposed building expansion. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on October 6, 2016 and the public hearing will be on October 10, 2016.

8. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer read a recommendation of a Hotel-Motel Tax funded project for the Calhoun Recreation Department's swimming pool resurfacing project. The project includes permitting, demolition, tile work, plaster prep, white plaster, and fittings. Mayan Pools and Sports Construction quote for the project cost is \$94,000. Recreation Director Kim Townsend stated that the deteriorating pool surface has become a safety issue. The health inspectors have completed two inspections of the pool this year and highly recommend the pool surface be fixed. Administrator Peterson stated that the Recreation Hotel-Motel Account has about \$140,000 in it currently and the pool events bring many visitors into Calhoun. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the project. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Barton stated that after this project the swimming pool will have almost a complete makeover with a new pool surface, resurfaced pool deck, and the pool pumps were replaced a couple of years ago. These projects will help reduce the amount of water and chemicals being used in the pool.
- B. Mayor Palmer stated that the Downtown Development Authority has submitted three different names as possible appointments to the DDA. Councilman Barton stated that all three candidates submitted were excellent choices. Councilman Barton made a motion to appoint Matt Robbins to the DDA Board. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Mr. Robbins term will expire on June 30, 2019. Mayor Palmer and the Council thanked Derrick Williams for his service to the DDA and all citizens who serve on the many boards and commissions throughout the City organization.

9. Other written items not on the agenda:

10. Work Reports:

A. Administrator Eddie Peterson

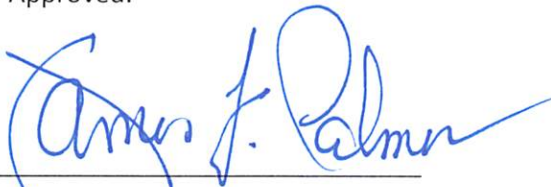
- Administrator Peterson reviewed the General Government monthly cash report with the general fund in a good cash position at \$1.1 million. The City's reserves continue to allow for three months total operations, which is consistent with the Financial Policy. The 2011 SPLOST account currently shows a balance of \$2.6 million, which is working good with being close to completion with the Recreation Project and now transitioning into the construction of phase one on Peters Street. The Revolving Loan fund has \$427,221 and this number is in compliance with DCA regulations. The City has made several loans this year, and the more money the fund has loaned out the more jobs that are being created and supported. The City's various reserve investments are averaging around a 1.5% return, which is the best rate obtained in many years.

B. General Manager Larry Vickery

- General Manager Vickery stated there has been recent media reports concerning the presence of Chromium-6 in drinking water. Mr. Vickery stated that Chromium-6 is an unregulated contaminant and the EPA website has the national level for total chromium at 100ppb. The City of Calhoun's Chromium results for its samples are less than 1ppb. This is less than 1% of the established national goal. The City meets or exceeds all State and Federal regulations and distributes a brochure yearly for the citizens to read about all the testing that is completed to produce some of the best drinking water in Northwest Georgia. The City is dedicated to continue to meet and exceed all requirements. 75% of the United States has chromium levels present in their water systems. Councilman Barton stated that in reading Water Treatment Superintendent Danny Stephens email, there is actually no official standards set as of yet. Mr. Stephens stated that was correct in that the EPA is mainly suggesting these are appropriate levels, but it is still an unregulated contaminant. The suggestions are used as goals to achieve if possible and the City is well below the suggested levels. Mr. Stephens also stated that this is not anything that is being added to the water, but chromium occurs naturally.

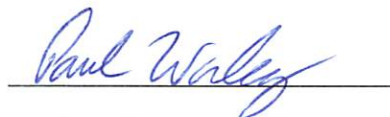
11. Councilman Barton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hammond with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CALHOUN CITY COUNCIL, IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, REQUESTING UPDATED REGULATIONS OF METHODS OF OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING HYDRAULIC AND ACIDIC FRACTURING, WITHIN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the counties of Polk, Floyd, Chattooga, Gordon, Whitfield, Murray, Walker and Catoosa in Northwest Georgia sit atop the geological formation known as the Conasauga Shale Play that state geologist estimate could hold as much as 625 trillion cubic feet of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, during the past ten years oil and natural gas exploration companies have sought and purchased mineral rights from multiple landowners in these counties for the purpose of drilling natural gas producing wells; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division has issued three well drilling permits in recent years and at least one exploratory well has identified natural gas reserves beneath Whitfield County; and

WHEREAS, modern natural gas extraction techniques include horizontal drilling and hydraulic or acidic fracturing (fracking) which have been possibly linked to contamination of groundwater and surface water, increased seismic activity and sinkholes; and

WHEREAS, existing state laws and rules were adopted prior to the advent of fracking technology and may not be adequate to insure environmental protection associated with this oil and natural gas technology; and

WHEREAS, the long term impact of oil and gas exploration and drilling within Calhoun and Gordon County is not fully understood; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CALHOUN CITY COUNCIL, IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

that fracking and other methods of oil and gas extraction within the State of Georgia should be regulated for the protection of Georgia's citizens, its water, and other natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia General Assembly should amend existing state laws to better protect Georgia's citizens, waterways, and the natural environment from possible negative impacts of oil and natural gas extraction activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor of the State of Georgia should sign and

approve such legislation; and

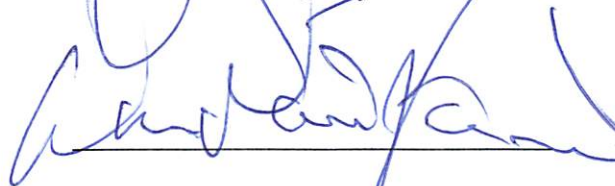
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia General Assembly should not prevent local governments from enacting ordinances that more strictly regulate, through Home Rule, oil and natural gas exploration in their jurisdictions, as appropriate.

ADOPTED in regular session of the Calhoun City Council, in the State of Georgia, this 26th day of September, 2016.

BY:  ATTEST: 

James F. Palmer, Mayor

Paul Worley, City Clerk

 DATE: 9-26-2016

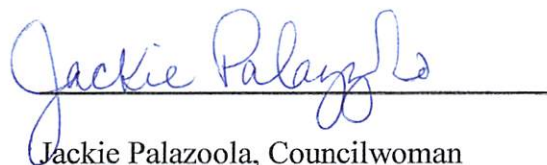
David Hammond, Mayor Pro Tempore



Matt Barton, Councilman



Al Edwards, Councilman



Jackie Palazoola, Councilwoman