

JANUARY 5, 1998      7:00 P. M.      REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET

**PRESENT:**      JOHN D. MEADOWS, III, MAYOR  
                  JOHN D. SHELTON, MAYOR PRO-TEM  
                  JIMMY PALMER, COUNCILMAN  
                  RONALD H. WOODS, COUNCILMAN  
                  HENRY HOLLAND, COUNCILMAN

**ALSO:**            WILLIAM P. BAILEY, CITY ATTORNEY  
                  KELLY CORNWELL, DIRECTOR UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS  
                  EDDIE PETERSON, ASST. DIRECTOR UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS  
                  CATHY HARRISON, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Mayor Meadows called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked City Chaplain Bert Vaughn to give the invocation.
2. Mayor Meadows led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.
3. Mayor Meadows gave his Annual State of the City Address as per the attached.
4. Minutes of the December 22, 1997 Regular City Council Meeting were approved as written.
5. Mayor Meadows swore in Councilman Palmer for Post Three and Councilman Shelton for Post four for four year terms. Mayor Meadows swore in Amy Atkinson for School Board Post One, Judy Wilson for School Board Post Two and Becky Mathews for School Board Post Three for four year terms.
6. Mayor Meadows made a recommendation to re-appoint Councilman Shelton to the Police, Fire and Fire Inspection Departments for the Calendar Year of 1998; Councilman Palmer for Recreation, Electric, Building Inspection, Airport and Downtown Development Departments for the year 1998; Councilman Woods for Street, Sanitation, Animal Control, Parks, Cemeteries and Zoning Advisory Board for the year 1998; and Councilman Holland Water Plant, Sewer Plant, Water/Sewer Construction and Depot for the year 1998. Following discussion Councilman Woods made a motion to affirm those appointments, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Palmer with Councilman Woods, Councilman Palmer, Councilman Holland and Mayor Pro-Tem Shelton voting affirmatively, motion carried.
7. Mayor Meadows asked for a motion for appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem for the calendar year. Mayor Pro-Tem Shelton made a motion to appoint Councilman Palmer as Mayor Pro-Tem for the year 1998, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Woods with Mayor Pro-Tem Shelton, Councilman Woods and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.
8. Mayor Meadows asked for a motion to appoint the City Chaplain, and recommended Dr. Bert Vaughn who had capably served the city for several years. Following discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer made a motion to appoint Dr. Bert Vaughn as City Chaplain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Shelton with Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Woods and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.
9. Mayor Meadows asked for a motion for appointment of City Attorney, stating that Attorney William P. Bailey had served capably for the past two years. Following discussion, Councilman Woods made a motion to appoint William P. Bailey as City Attorney for 1998, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Shelton with Councilman Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Holland and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
10. Mayor Meadows asked for a motion for an appointment of Municipal Court Judge, and recommended Suzanne Hutchinson who had served in that position very capably. Following discussion, Councilman Holland made a motion to appoint Suzanne Hutchinson as Municipal Court Judge for 1998, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Woods with Councilman Holland, Councilman Woods, Councilman Shelton and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
11. Mayor Meadows asked for a motion for appointment of City Auditor for 1998 and stated the firm of R. M. Dobbs and Company has capably served the city for the past several years. Following discussion, Councilman Woods made a motion to appoint R. M. Dobbs & Company as City Auditor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer with Councilman Woods, Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.
12. Mayor Meadows asked for a motion to approve a Banking Resolution regarding the investment of City funds and accounts. Following discussion, Councilman Woods made a motion to approve the

resolution, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer with Councilman Woods, Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.

13. Mayor Meadows asked for a motion to appoint department heads for 1998, stating at present, that those department heads are:

- a. Kelly Cornwell, Director Utilities/Public Works
- b. Cathy Harrison, City Administrator/Clerk/Finance Officer
- c. Eddie Peterson, Asst. Director Utilities/Public Works
- d. Willie Mitchell, Police Chief
- e. Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief
- f. Kevin McEntire, Street, Sanitation, Cemetery, Parks and Animal Control
- g. Estes Pass, Water Plant Superintendent
- h. Carlton Rogers, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent
- i. Dan Shuler, Water/Sewer Construction Superintendent
- j. Mark Williamson, Technical Engineer Water/Sewer Construction
- k. Jerry Crawford, Asst. Superintendent Water/Sewer Construction
- l. Larry Vickery, Electrical Superintendent
- m. Robby Cole, Golf Professional
- n. Harold Franklin, Golf Maintenance Superintendent

Following discussion, Councilman Woods made a motion to re-appoint those department heads for the calendar year 1998, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Shelton with Councilman Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Holland and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.

14. Mayor's Comments:

- a. Mayor Meadows reminded the Council and public of the re-scheduled second meeting for January for January 19, 1998 at 7:00 P. M. at the Depot.
- b. Mayor Meadows reminded the Council of the GMA Mayor's Day Legislative Meeting January 24-26, 1998 in Atlanta and urged each one to attend.

15. Council's Comments:

- a. Councilman Shelton reported the Police Department made 268 arrests in December with 11 DUT's. He stated they collected \$24,137.00 in fines, issued 69 warning tickets, 458 parking tickets, investigated 94 accidents, and answered 24 burglar alarms. He stated the Fire Department provided in house training for its personnel, and sent three individuals to training at the Fire Academy. He stated they provided 75 inspections, responded to 61 calls with a loss of approximately \$27,250.00.
- b. Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer reported the Electric Department sold 24,865,711 KWH in the month of December to a customer base of 3,936. He stated they provided 27 inspections and issued 16 permits. He stated at present they have a tree crew trimming rights-of-way in several areas of the City. He also reported that on December 31, 1997, the City's Telecommunications Certificate Application was filed with the Public Service Commission. Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer also offered congratulations to Larry Vickery on being selected to the District Service Board of MEAG for the coming year.
- c. Councilman Woods stated the Street Department crews continued to pick up leaves on all city routes, prepared driveways along right-of-way of a truck terminal on River Street, filled low shoulders with gravel along Newtown Road, hauled dirt to the ball park fields and soccer field parking lot, dug out and patched sunken area of road on Mauldin Road using 8.14 tons of asphalt, did patching on King Street using 21.71 tons of asphalt and patching on various other locations using 6.42 tons of asphalt. He stated the City removed 80 ft. of curb and gutter at the new Sears Building, ran storm water maintenance checks on city storm drains on December 8 - 19, 1997. He stated they serviced and cleaned up trucks and equipment, and hauled 49 loads of gravel and three loads of coal mix. The Sanitation Department gained four new commercial accounts and one eight yard commercial account. He stated the Parks Department formed and poured handicap ramps at the entrance of the City Hall Annex, painted the inside of City Hall, cut brush and cleared fence line at the City Hall Annex, performed routine maintenance on city buildings and grounds. Councilman Woods stated the Cemetery Department supervised the opening and closing of 18 graves in addition to its maintenance at both Fain and Chandler Cemeteries. He stated the Shop Department completed 62 work orders for all city departments, and animal control housed 27 dogs and 14 cats in the month of December. They disposed of two deer and issued three first warnings and one second warning.
- d. Councilman Holland stated the Water treatment Plant pumped a daily average of 9.391 MGD during the month of December, 1997. He stated the Waste Treatment Plant pumped an average of 8.219 MGD during the month of December with the average BOD effluent being 21, average Suspended effluent being 22 and the average COD effluent being 112. He stated the Water/Sewer Construction Department made 33 water taps and eight sewer taps. He stated they installed 850 ft. of two inch water line, repaired and installed 150 ft. of 30 inch concrete sewer line, and repaired 80 ft. of 48 inch ductile iron sewer line. The Sewer Infiltration Crew rehabilitated five manholes, removed six beaver

dams, helped repair 30 inch and 48 inch sewer line and spent one day in training on ADS Sewer Line flow Meters. He stated the Backflow Crew installed 17 new meter yolks with proper backflow protection, and assisted in the repair of the 30 inch and 48 inch sewer line.

16. **Public Hearings & Comments:**

Mayor Meadows stated at this time he would open the public hearings on zoning matters. They will be presented in alphabetical order with reports by the Zoning Advisory Board. Public Hearings will have pro and con comments with a ten minute maximum time limit each, and each person speaking is required to have filed a financial disclosure statement five days prior to the hearing and must give their name and address. Mayor Meadows asked if any Council Member needed to file a disclosure statement on any of the items to be considered. Mayor Meadows stated that of these items, he would need to file a disclosure on Item A, Item B, Item F and Item H.

- a. 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the Annexation/New Zoning Request of Artisans, Inc. (formerly Harco, Inc.) for property known as 125 Nance Road for C-2 zoning. Mayor Meadows re-opened the public hearing with assurance from Harrison that the signs had been posted, an ad had been run in the legal organ and notices to the adjoining property owners had been confirmed. Councilman Woods, Chairman of the Zoning Advisory Board stated this matter had been reviewed, and upon request by the applicant he would make a motion to table until such time as the deficiency which consisted of the property not being bound by a public road was cured, and asked that not only this item, but two other items which could only be contiguous because of this annexation request, those being the Annexation/New Zoning Request of Carolyn Shepherd Cochran for Lots 15, 16, 17, 18, part of 19, part of 31, all of Lots 32, 33, 34 and 35 of the Skyway Subdivision on Highway 41, North for C-2 zoning, and the Annexation/New Zoning Request of Mydrin, Inc. (formerly Backings, Inc.) for property known as 129 Nance Road, N. E., Lots 49, 50, 60 and 69 consisting of approximately 18.5 acres with a request for Ind.-G zoning. He asked those all be tabled. He also asked that the Annexation/New Zoning Request of Stanley Simpson and Bill Walraven for approximately 6.979 acres located west of the I-75 Frontage Road at Highway 41, North in Land Lot 85 in the 14<sup>th</sup> District and 3<sup>rd</sup> Section of Gordon County, Georgia for C-2 zoning be held. He stated this item also had a problem with the frontage road not being recognized as a public road, and would take some time to cure that situation. Following discussion, the four items were tabled on a request by Councilman Woods.
- b. A 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Annexation/New Zoning Request of Dr. Morris Jenkins, Agent for the Stephens Family for property located directly east of the current property owned and occupied by Owasa Family Medicine for C-2 zoning. Mayor Meadows opened the public hearing and asked for a report on advertisement, placement of signs and notification of adjoining property owners. Harrison stated all those items had been completed. Councilman Woods stated the Zoning Advisory Board had met on this matter on the evening of January 5, 1998, and of those members present, they had recommended the property be annexed and zoned as requested with the consideration that a water flow study be provided since there is considerable drainage from other areas through the property, and also there is a utility easement for water, sewer and electricity on the west side of the property which might need to be relocated at the cost of the developer if the building is extended across the easement area. The proposed owner, Dr. Morris Jenkins, stated that it is the intention of his firm to add to the existing building, and that a decision has not yet been made whether to extend the building to the north of the existing building or to the east, however, they were aware of the problem with the easement and this would be considered in their development plan. There were no other comments, and the hearing was closed. Councilman Woods made a motion to approve the annexation/new zoning request for C-2 zoning, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Shelton with Councilman Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Holland and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- c. A 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Zoning Variance Request of David R. Logan for property located at 1296 Curtis Parkway (Service Chevrolet) to build a fence within six feet of the curb. A public hearing was opened with Harrison reporting that advertisement, placement of signs, and notification of adjoining property owners had been complied with. Councilman Woods, Chairman of the Zoning Advisory Board stated this matter had been discussed by those members of the board present on January 5, 1998 at 4:30 P. M. and that following review of the report from the Zoning Review Committee that it had been noted that in case of an emergency, the Fire Department or other emergency services might need to break locks in order to gain access if no one was at the building at the time they needed to enter for protection of property and personnel. Also, it was noted from the committee that the fencing would encroach on a sewer easement, and that should there be any need to work on the sewer in the easement area, that it would be the expense of the applicant to remove the fence and to replace following completion of the work. There were no other comments, and the hearing was closed. The four items in the criteria for granting a zoning variance had been substantially met. Councilman Woods made a motion to recommend the variance and to allow construction of the fence, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer with Councilman Woods, Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.

- d. A 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Zoning Variance Request of James Michael Meadows for property located at 1280 Curtis Parkway for a 20 ft. variance in height in order to place an on premise sign on the far east side of the property. A public hearing was opened, with a report that advertisement, placement of signs, and notification of adjoining property owners had been completed. Councilman Woods, Chairman of the Zoning Advisory Board stated those members of the board who were present had reviewed the application on the evening of January 5, 1998, and had heard a report from the Zoning Review Committee which had stated that several similar requests had been granted for signs for hotels, Service Chevrolet and others in the immediate area. The Committee also stated that a similar sign had been located on the property previously. Councilman woods stated the Committee had also heard a report form adjoining property owners, John and Rose Cunningham of Atlanta, who stated they were opposed to signs, and were there to request that it not be granted. Councilman Woods stated that those Zoning Advisory Board members present stated the request substantially met the criteria for granting variances, that a precedent had been set earlier in several which had been granted in the immediate area, and that it was the recommendation of those present at the Zoning Advisory Board Meeting that the request be approved. There were no other comments, and the public hearing was closed. Councilman Woods made a motion to approve the request, for a 20 ft. variance in height, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer with Councilman Woods, Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Shelton, and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- e. A 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the Annexation/New Zoning Request for Ruth Shepherd for property known as 148 and 146 Harris-Beamer Road located south of the Coosa Tech Satellite for C-2 zoning was given. A public hearing was opened with Harrison reporting that advertising, placement of signs and notification of adjoining property owners had been complied with. Councilman Woods, Chairman of the Zoning Advisory Board, stated this matter had been considered at the December meeting of the Zoning Advisory Board, and also again at the January Zoning Advisory Board Meeting. He stated the area in which the application was incomplete previously, was that of notification of adjoining property owners, and that item had been complied with and that the Zoning Advisory Board would recommend approval based upon the fact that a trailer had been removed from the property as requested, and that it was an understanding that the utility extensions to the area would need to be paid for by the developer, and that the developer would also need to work closely with the Street Department in order to secure a proper driveway because of very poor site distance in the area. Following these comments, the hearing was closed. Councilman Woods made a motion to approve the request for annexation and C-2 zoning, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Shelton with Councilman Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Holland and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Other Hearings:

- f. A 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the request of the VFW to change the name on all of its city licenses (BWL and Amusement) to their corporate name of Renis Barrett Memorial Home, Inc was given. A public hearing was opened, there were no comments, and the hearing was closed. Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer made a motion to waive the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> readings and to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Holland with Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Holland ,Councilman Shelton and Councilman Woods voting affirmatively, motion carried.

17. Old Business: None

18. New Business:

- a. A 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Annexation/New Zoning Request of Bill Walraven for Lots 13 and 14 on Cherokee Lane for C-2 zoning. It was confirmed that the location for Cherokee Lane is located off Highway 41, South, directly behind the Service Station/Grocery Store operation near Belwood Nursery. Councilman Woods made a motion to hold a public hearing on February 9, 1998 at 7:00 P. M., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer with Councilman Woods, Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- b. A 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Annexation/New Zoning Request of Sybil Clark and Mary Dell Parrott for a house and lot located on Highway 41, South, identified as 1102 South Wall Street for R-2 zoning which is due to the size of the lot, and said property being located next to what was previously known as Calhoun Nursery was given. Councilman Woods made a motion to set the public hearing for February 9, 1998 at 7:00 P. M., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer with Councilman Woods, Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- c. A 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance amendment to adopt current building, plumbing, housing, electrical and other codes was given. Councilman Woods made a motion to set the public hearing for January 19, 1998 at 7:00 P. M., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Holland with Councilman Woods, Councilman Holland, Councilman Shelton and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.

19. Other Written Items Not on the Agenda:

- a. A 1<sup>st</sup> reading was given to a Zoning Variance Request of SAFCO II, representing property owners Robert Gilbert and Gordon Moorehouse for the property at 401 South Wall Street for a four ft. setback variance for an on premise sign to be located on the property. Following review, Councilman Woods made a motion to set the public hearing on the request for February 9, 1998 at 7:00 P. M., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Holland with Councilman Woods, Councilman Holland, Councilman Shelton and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- b. A 1<sup>st</sup> reading was given to the Beer/Wine Package License Application of Blue Sky Petroleum with Kari Baumez serving as manager for the location of 731 Highway 53, S. E., which was the former Wallace Shell Service Station. The license had not been renewed by Wallace Shell at the end of the year because of change in ownership. Following review, Councilman Palmer made a motion to hold the public hearing on the request on January 19, 1998 at 7:00 P. M., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Shelton with Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Woods and Councilman Holland voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- c. A 1<sup>st</sup> reading of a parade permit application y Walter Harris requesting a Martin Luther King Unity March starting on Neal Street, down Martin Luther King Drive and ending at the Depot on King Street. Harrison stated the Police Chief and she were attempting to work on a route which would be on City streets since the City does not have an opening for an additional parade request on state routes. She stated the request was for January 19, 1998 from 6:00 P. M. to 6:45 P. M. with about 100 persons participating in the unity march. Following discussion, Councilman Woods made a motion approve the parade request, and to grant Harrison and Chief Mitchell the authority to work out a parade route on City streets, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Shelton with Councilman Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Holland and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.

20. Director Cornwell's Work Report:


- a. Director Cornwell stated that he had provided a repair report for the Council to review which included a sink hole which was located by the sewer infiltration crew in which a large area of the City's sewer line had collapsed which made it necessary to replace 150 ft. of 30 inch concrete sewer line and 80 ft of 48 inch ductile iron sewer line at an estimated cost of \$37,000.00. He stated he would like to commend the contractor, Bruce Shuler, as well as, the sewer infiltration crew and the water/sewer construction crews who worked long hours to complete this project very timely.
- b. He also provided a request from Larry Vickery, Electrical Superintendent regarding human resource additions, and asked the council to review and consider at the next meeting as a personnel item, however, he requested permission to advertise the positions to see what capable applicants there were for the specialized jobs that were needed. The Council authorized the advertising only at this point. Councilman Holland asked that this matter be returned on January 19, 1998 as a personnel item in Executive Session.
- c. Mayor Meadows asked for a report on the Resaca Water Pressure situation. Director Cornwell stated the engineering for the work had been completed, and everything was ready with the exception that Mydrin had not deeded the property to the City for the pump station, and that was the holdup at this point. He stated he anticipated having this situation cleared and the project completed by Spring, 1998.

21. Mayor Meadows asked if there was any need to move to Executive Session. There was none and he entertained a motion to Adjourn which was made by Councilman Woods, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Shelton with Councilman Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Holland and Mayor Pro-Tem Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:

  
John D. Meadows, III  
Mayor

Submitted:

  
Cathy Harrison  
City Administrator

1998 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

THIS IS MY 12<sup>TH</sup> AND FINAL STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO START THIS ONE THE WAY I'VE STARTED THE OTHERS, WITH A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MY FAMILY, MARIE, B.J. AND MISSY WITHOUT THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT I AM NOTHING. I NEED TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND LOVE OF CALHOUN. I WOULD ASK THAT YOU THE CITIZENS, ALSO SAY THANK YOU OCCASSIONALLY TO YOUR COUNCIL, A LITTLE BIT OF SUPPORT GOES A LONG WAY AND IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. ALSO, I NEED TO SAY THANKS TO YOUR EMPLOYEES, THEY DO A WONDERFUL JOB FOR YOU. KELLY, CATHY AND NOW EDDIE ARE THE ONES THAT LEAD OUR CREWS AND THEY DO ONE HECK OF A JOB.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, A NEW YEAR HAS ARRIVED. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, I WAS PONDERING WHAT TO PUT IN 1997'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS. NOW AS IS OUR TRADITION, IT IS TIME TO LOOK AT THE PAST YEAR. WE CAN LOOK AT LESSONS LEARNED AND CONTINUE TO CHART OUR COURSE FOR THE FUTURE.

FOR YOUR CITY, 1997 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR. FINANCIALLY, WE HAVE INCREASED OUR RESERVES AND AT THE SAME TIME, KEPT OUR RATES FOR UTILITIES AND OTHER SERVICES AT VERY COMPETITIVE RATES. WE CAN DO THIS BECAUSE OF YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT AND BECAUSE OF THE WISDOM OF YOUR FOUR COUNCILMEMBERS WHO OVERSEE OUR KEY FINANCIAL DECISIONS. BECAUSE OF OUR STRONG FOUNDATION, WE ARE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PURSUE YOUR GOALS; DOING THE THINGS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOU THE CITIZENS, INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE, CONTINUE TO IMPROVE.

LETS LOOK BACK AND SEE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT TOOK PLACE LAST YEAR. FIRST, WE LOOK AT WATER AND SEWER. WE CONTIUED THE SEWER PLANT UPGRADE TO 16 MGD, WHICH IS 92% COMPLETE. WE ADDED 1450 FEET OF EIGHT INCH SEWER LINE AND MADE 243 SEWER TAPS. OUR NEW INFILTRATION CREW CLEARED 146,550 FEET OF SEWER RIGHT-OF-WAY AND CONTINUED REFURBISHING MANHOLES AND CONNECTIONS.

WE CONTINUED TO UPGRADE THE WATER PLANT, AND CONTINUED TO WORK TO DEVELOP THE SUCCESSFUL WELL TO SUPPLEMENT OUT RAW WATER CAPACITY BY TWO MILLION GALLONS PER DAY. WE ADDED 8,597 FEET OF TWO INCH LINE, 4,010 FEET OF FOUR INCH LINE, 19,250 FEET OF SIX INCH LINE AND 1,150 FEET OF EIGHT INCH LINE, WITH 580 NEW WATER TAPS.

WATER AND SEWER WILL ALWAYS BE THE LIFE BLOOD OF CALHOUN, BUT WE MUSN'T FORGET THE ELECTRIC UTILITY. IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR FINANCIAL WORKHORSE. THINGS ARE CHANGING BUT SO ARE WE. DEREGULATION WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AND YOUR COUNCIL IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INSURE THAT NOTHING DRAMATIC SNEAKS UP ON US AND OUR OPERATION.

WE HAD A FAVORABLE DECISION IN OUR CASE AGAINST MEAG. WE WERE PAID, AND THESE FUNDS WERE PUT IN RESERVES. IT COST US APPROXIMATELY \$700,000.00 TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE, AND WE RECEIVED ABOUT \$625,000.00. ON THE SURFACE, IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS WAS NOT A GOOD DEAL, BUT ONE MUST LOOK AT ALL AREAS INVOLVED. THE LAWSUIT FORCED MEAG TO RESTRUCTURE ITS WHOLESALE RATES, WHICH ALLOWED THE CITY TO PROVIDE AN ELECTRIC RETAIL RATE REDUCTION EFFECTIVE JULY 1997 AND CONTINUING INTO THE FUTURE THUS SAVING THE CUSTOMER MONEY. WE ALSO SETTLED THE RATE DISPUTE FOR THE YEARS 1995 AND 1996. THESE FUNDS WERE ALSO PUT IN UTILITY RESERVES.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ENHANCE OUR ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT AND ALSO EXPAND OUR SERVICES, WE COMPLETED PHASE I OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS RING, WE STARTED TESTING AND FILED WITH THE GEORGIA PROVIDER SERVICE COMMISSION FOR OUR CERTIFICATE. THE COMPLETED COST IS APPROXIMATELY \$978,000. THIS IS ABOUT ONE HALF THE COST THAT WE WERE LED TO BELIEVE IT WOULD COST. WE'RE LOOKING AT HIRING TWO TO THREE NEW EMPLOYEES FOR THIS SYSTEM COMPARED TO THE TEN TO TWELVE WE WERE FIRST TOLD WE NEEDED. THERE WILL BE NO NEW DEPARTMENTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS WILL BE A PART OF THE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT.

BACK TO WATER AND SEWER, WE COMPLETED THE CDBG PROJECT FOR CREST, GALLMAN, TALLEY AND OLA STREET AREAS. A MUCH NEEDED PROJECT, I JUST WISH THERE WAS MORE OF THAT TYPE OF GRANT AVAILABLE. WE WILL HAVE THE BIDDING FOR OUR SEWER AND WATER IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE ECHOTA VILLAGE CDBG IN JANUARY.

WE ALSO RECEIVED THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY PREPARED BY DR. CHRIS NELSON OF GEORGIA TACH ON OUR SEWER RATES. HE FOUND THAT WE WERE WITHIN ONE PERCENT OF BEING ON TARGET WITH OUR RATES IN TERMS OF COVERING COST. THIS WAS DONE TO ASSURE OUR INDUSTRIES THAT WE ARE BEING FAIR IN HOW WE DID OUR RATES.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED TO BE ONE OF OUR PRIMARY CONCERNS, AND WE COLLECTED \$217,536. IN HOTEL-MOTEL TAXES AND DISTRIBUTED THESE FUNDS TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR TOURISM.

THE CITY AND THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RESTRUCTURED THE MAIN STREET PROGRAM AND HIRED A NEW DIRECTOR, BEVE. RYBERG. THE AUTHORITY SPONSORED THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE, THE LARGEST TURN OUT OF PEOPLE EVER. DOWNTOWN IS A VITAL PART OF OUR FUTURE, AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO REVITALIZE THIS AREA.

THE CITY AND COUNTY RECEIVED FUNDING OF \$20,000. FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HISTORIC ROOKER BUILDING. THE ARTS COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK, AND WE SHOULD SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS.

PIEDMONT STREET COMING SOON? WE HAVE THE ENGINEERING AND ABOUT 50% OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY, WITH CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN IN THE SPRING OF THIS YEAR. THAT'S A MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT WITH ABOUT HALF COMING FROM THE CITY AND DOT SUPPLYING THE OTHER HALF. WE ALSO RESURFACED 1.5 MILES OF CITY STREETS.

RECREATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE ENHANCEMENT AND WE CONTINUED TRYING TO UPGRADE IN THIS AREA. THE RIVER PARK IS GOING FORWARD. WE RECEIVED A LARGE DONATION FOR THE PARK FROM THE CLARENCE E. HARRIS FOUNDATION, AND THE COUNCIL VOTED TO NAME THE PARK IN HIS HONOR. WE COMPLETED THE SOCCER FIELDS AND HAD A CROWD OF OVER 1,500 ON HAND FOR ITS OPENING IN SEPTEMBER. THE ARCHITECT BEGAN PLANS FOR THE AMPITHEATER, BALL FIELDS AND WALKING TRAILS.

THE CITY AND COUNTY FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED THE RECREATION COMMISSION. THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVED OVER 69,000 CITIZENS IN ALL SPORTS ACTIVITIES. THAT SAYS A LOT ABOUT A COUNTY OF JUST 40,000. FIELDS FERRY HAD OVER 35,000 ROUNDS OF PLAY AND CONTINUES TO BE THE GOLFING JEWEL OF NORTHWEST GEORGIA. THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY MADE APPLICATIONS FOR PAVING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 400 FEET OF RUNWAY. THIS IS TO ACCOMMODATE OUR GROWING AIRPORT USE AND SERVICES, AND TO ALLOW FOR JETS TO USE THE AIRPORT MORE SAFELY. ALSO, THE CITY AND COUNTY ASSISTED THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WITH A USDA LOAN TO CONSTRUCT A MUCH NEEDED NEW TERMINAL.

THE CITY ADOPTED A COMMERCIAL DRIVER AND SAFETY SENSITIVE JOBS DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY. THE CITY ATTORNEY, MR. WILLIAM P. BAILEY, AND OUR STAFF CONTINUED TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE CITY CHARTER AND CODE OF ORDINANCES. WE RESTRUCTURED OUR BUILDING INSPECTION, FIRE INSPECTION, ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING INSPECTION ACTIVITIES TO MAKE THESE MORE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. WE HAVE A NEW ZONING COMMITTEE MADE UP OF DEPARTMENT HEADS. THEY REVIEW ALL ZONING APPLICATIONS TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF SERVICES NEEDED. THEY LOOK AT THINGS THAT MAY IMPACT OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, ETC., AND RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO THE ZONING ADVISORY BOARD FOR THEIR REVIEW PRIOR TO CONSIDERING THE FORMAL REQUEST OF THOSE WISHING TO MAKE CHANGES OR ANNEX INTO THE CITY. THIS HELPED WITH OUR HANDLING OF 25 ANNEXATIONS THIS YEAR.

THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS CONTINUED TO DO THEIR USUAL GOOD JOB. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT MADE 2,908 ARRESTS AND COLLECTED OVER \$300,000. IN FINES. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO 580 CALLS, PROVIDED FIRE EXTINGUISHER

TRAINING FOR 800 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PEOPLE. THE POLICE CONTINUE TO EDUCATE CHILDREN ON THE EFFECTS OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE WITH THE DARE PROGRAM. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED SAFETY TRAINING TO 1,100 SCHOOL CHILDREN.

ALL IN ALL 1997 WAS A GOOD YEAR, A YEAR OF SOME CHANGES AND A FEW SURPRISES. THE PASSAGE OF THE ONE PERCENT SALES TAX SHOWS WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IF WE'RE ALL PULLING IN THE SAME DIRECTION. WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT OUR GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE, OUR CHILDREN, HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY POSSIBLE TO GET THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION THAT WILL ALLOW THEM TO COMPETE IN THE BUSINESS MARKET PLACE IN THE FUTURE. THIS MARKET PLACE IS NOT JUST NORTHWEST GEORGIA OR THE SOUTH OR THE UNITED STATES FOR THAT MATTER, ITS GLOBAL.

THE STATE DOESN'T HOLD ITS END OF THE BARGAIN WHEN IT COMES TO FUNDING EDUCATION. LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES HAVE TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE, 80% OF YOUR TAX BILL IS FOR SCHOOLS. IF WE CAN DO ANYTHING TO REDUCE THIS, WE MUST TRY, AND YOU DID WITH THE PASSAGE OF THIS SALES TAX.

NOW WE LEAVE IT UP TO OUR SCHOOL OFFICIALS TO LEAD THE WAY. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO RUN FOR AN OFFICE THAT PAYS NOTHING. THEY DO IT BECAUSE THEY WANT TO HELP. GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

1998 SHOULD SEE LITTLE IN THE WAY OF CHANGES IN DIRECTION FOR THE CITY. OUR JOBS AS MAYOR AND COUNCIL ARE TO FORM POLICIES OR CHANGE POLICIES THAT WILL INSURE OUR PROSPERITY AND ORDERLY GROWTH IN THE FUTURE. I THINK WE'VE DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF THIS SO FAR.

CALHOUN AND GORDON COUNTY ARE GOING TO GROW, JUST BECAUSE OF OUR LOCATION, BUT WITH PROPER PLANNING THIS WILL BE QUALITY GROWTH. GROWTH NEED NOT MEAN MORE RESTRICTIONS, BUT IT DOES MEAN BETTER USE OF WHAT WE'VE GOT. IT TAKES HARD WORK AND COMPROMISE TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE HAVE, AND WE OWE THAT IN A LARGE PART TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE CITY, THE CHAMBER AND THE SCHOOLS TO HAVE THE INDUSTRIES AND THE BUSINESSES THAT GROW THE TAX BASE THAT ALLOWS US TO HAVE THE SERVICES THAT WE NEED.

WE ARE INDEED LUCKY TO LIVE IN A COUNTY AND CITY THAT HAS THE LOW TAXES THAT WE DO, THE LOW COST OF UTILITIES, AND THE HIGH QUALITY OF SERVICES THAT WE ARE OFFERED.

THERE ARE THOSE AMONG US WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS CHANGED. FOR WHATEVER REASON THESE PEOPLE ARE TOTALLY NEGATIVE AND THEY DO THEIR BEST TO UNDERMINE THE THINGS WHICH ARE GOOD ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY. WE YOUR