

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
MARCH 28, 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; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director

- 1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
A. Mayor Palmer gave the invocation.**
- 2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.**
- 3. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond requested that there be an addition to the Proposed Agenda for a Proclamation. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the amended agenda, Councilwoman Palazzolo seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.**
- 4. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of the March 14, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
- 5. Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer extended his thoughts and prayers to the family of Willie Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell retired in 2000 after 32 years of service to the City of Calhoun. Mr. Mitchell worked his way up through the Calhoun Police Department to become the Chief of Police. Mr. Mitchell was well respected within the Police Department and throughout the community.**
 - B. Mayor Palmer announced that the City of Calhoun has been named one of the safest cities in all of Georgia by BackgroundCheck.org, a site devoted to public safety and open government. This is a true achievement, which is a result of city government, police, and residents working together to ensure that Calhoun is safe. Calhoun made the list of the top 50 safest cities in Georgia and Calhoun placed number 18 within this top 50.**
 - C. Mayor Palmer read a National Telecommunicator's Week Proclamation proclaiming April 10th through April 16th National Telecommunicator's Week. After the reading of the proclamation Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Gordon County E-911**

Director Debbie Vance was in attendance and invited the Mayor and Council to an open house at the E-911 center on April 12th. Director Vance also issued an invitation for the Mayor and Council to attend the E-911 annual banquet on April 14th.

6. Public Hearings and Comments: None

7. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of an annexation and zoning request of Ind-G for 2.06 acres at a location of 632 Richardson Road by Terry Timm, D/B/A Timm Properties, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on April 7, 2016. The Public Hearing will be on April 11, 2016.
- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a taxicab regulatory license application for Sonia Gonzalez Veliz and Santos Gonzalez D/B/A: Quality Taxi at a location of 509 Court Street. The public hearing will be on April 11, 2016.

8. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer read a Special Event road closure request by Myra Hogan with New Beginning Ministries to close a section of Short McConnell Road starting at the Pine Street entrance and then going north about 160 feet to the entrance of the back parking lot of the Calhoun Housing Authority on Saturday April 16th from 9:00am to 10:00pm for the church's annual Community Fun Day. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the special event request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer and wine package license request by Mayinampati Rathnam D/B/A: Food Mart and Tobacco at a location of 1402 US Hwy 41 South. Councilman Barton made a motion to set the public hearing on April 25th. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer, wine, and liquor pouring license request by Chan Seng Yap D/B/A: Wall Street Grille at a location of 117 South Wall Street. Councilman Edwards made a motion to set the public hearing on April 25th. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer stated that the Council had a discussion on the City of Calhoun Organizational Charts at the work session and it will continue to be reviewed and discussed. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that he has discussed this item along with the term limit issue with various people and it looks like the city residents are excited about these items as they are discussed through word of mouth and social media and it will be interesting discussions in the next month or two. Mayor Palmer stated that this was voted on five years ago and it was voted on to remain the same with a general government unit and a separate utility unit and Mr. Hammond is talking about bringing all operations under the direction of the City Administrator. Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that she has met with General Manager of Utilities Larry Vickery to get more information and would like to get as much information as she can to be able to make a decision.

- E. Mayor Palmer stated that the Council had a discussion pertaining to term limits for elected officials at the work session. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that there was great discussion about this item at the Thursday evening work session and encouraged the public to come out and attend these work sessions. This is the reason the meeting was moved to Thursday evening once per month to allow more public attendance and involvement. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that he looks how things are not working politically in Washington D.C. and at the state level and would like to look at local government and see if there is something we can do to make a difference. In talking about term limits, we have quality people serving the City and have been serving for several years, but we have citizens in the community who would step up if given the opportunity. In the state of Georgia you have 50 cities that have implemented term limits. There are three or four in the North Georgia area. Mr. Hammond encouraged everyone to look up statements given in the AJC by the Mayor of Roswell concerning their implementation of term limits. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond continued, if you can't fix it from the top down, try to impact it from the bottom up as there is always a way to do things better and if the Council agrees to this someone would have to be first. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond volunteered publicly to be the first to accept the reduction of time served by implementing term limits. Calhoun has the opportunity to be the first when comparing us to the surrounding cities in this area. It is good to compare our operations with surrounding communities and emulate what they are doing well, but if we have an opportunity to make an improvement first we should take advantage of that. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that he thought our community has a great history, but a diversity of ideas and change of perspective could help improve the thought process.

9. Other written items not on the agenda: None

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 as compared to previous years. The 2011 SPLOST has committed funds to the Peters Street Project and recently Gordon County allocated their part to the project, so we now have \$3.2 million dedicated to the Peters Street project. The Revolving Loan checking account is at \$962,000. The Revolving Loan Committee has a meeting this Thursday to review a loan application. The fund is governed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and one of the stipulations is that you cannot have more than 30% of the total assets in cash, so we need to make another loan since we are over that limit.

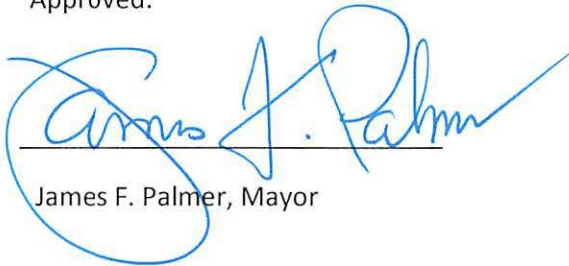
B. General Manager Larry Vickery

- General Manager Vickery reviewed the Utility monthly cash report with good reserve levels showing. The City was able to move some of its reserve funds to different investment vehicles to get better rate of return on these reserve funds.

- General Manager Vickery requested to declare a 20 year old incubator for the water/sewer plant as surplus. The incubator was replaced three years ago and the department would like to sell the old one that is not being used. Councilman Hammond made a motion to declare the item as surplus. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

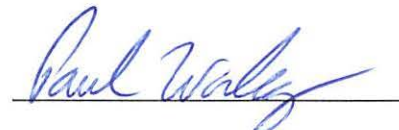
11. Councilman Barton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hammond with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk