

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
AUGUST 26, 2013 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

**PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Al Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem
George Crowley, Councilman
David Hammond, Councilman
Matt Barton, Councilman**

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; Paul Worley, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Garry Moss, Chief of Police; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Michelle Taylor, City School Superintendent; Don Hood, City School Finance Director; Tony Swink, School Board Member; Officer Carlson; Officer Olmedo; Officer Cuprowski; Officer Nicholson; Lt. McGivern; Officer Defoor; Officer Tanner; Sgt. Stanfield

- 1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
A. Mayor Pro Tem 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 agenda and Councilman Crowley seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.**
- 4. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2013 City Council Meeting. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
- 5. Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer announced that the Calhoun Police Department (CPD) has been awarded a certificate of recognition from the International Association of Chiefs of Police for their dedication to traffic safety and saving lives through their exceptional performance in the 2012 National Law Enforcement Challenge. During the challenge CPD showed its dedication to traffic safety, saving lives, and working to make the community safer. Chief Moss recognizing Christy Nicholson for an exceptional job of gathering and submitting the statistics to the State that lead to the recognition. Mayor Palmer discussed some statistics from the Police Department such as accidents per month have decreased from 117 down to 52. The decrease in accidents has occurred in spite of the fact that Calhoun's population has increased by 40 percent over the past 10 years and traffic on the roads has increased by an estimated 30 percent. CPD averages giving**

three warnings to every one ticket written. DUIs have decreased from 15 per month down to nine per month. Mayor Palmer and Chief Garry Moss thanked the CPD for working hard to make Calhoun's streets safer for the community.

- B. Mayor Palmer announced that qualifying for the municipal general election will be held at City Hall located at 226 South Wall Street beginning at 8:30am on Monday, August 26th and ending at 4:30pm on Friday August 30th. The general election will be held on November 5, 2013. The positions that are up for election are:
- Calhoun City Council Post 3- Matt Barton, incumbent
 - Calhoun City Council Post 4- David Hammond, incumbent
 - Calhoun City School Board Post 1- Amy Atkinson, incumbent
 - Calhoun City School Board Post 2- Rhoda Washington, incumbent
 - Calhoun City School Board Post 3- David Scoggins, incumbent

6. Public Hearings and Comments:

A. Mayor Palmer stated that the next item was a public hearing for a new version of Section 58 of the Calhoun Code of Ordinances to allow for the City to collect costs on properties with overgrown vegetation and/or improper trash disposal.

- Councilman Barton made a motion to table the ordinance change to allow for more discussion. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

B. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for an ordinance change for the on-system and off-system streets within the City of Calhoun. The State of Georgia has surveyed and approved all of Curtis Parkway from Hwy 53 to Red Bud Road, which includes a section of Curtis Parkway from Wildwood Circle to Professional Court as a school zone, to be eligible for the use of speed control devices.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Palmer stated that the addition of Curtis Parkway to the list of roads eligible for use of speed control devices was the only change. The Curtis Parkway addition includes 2.92 miles with a speed limit of 40 mph and a 0.27 mile school zone with a speed limit of 35 mph.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the ordinance change. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

7. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading for a sign variance request by NRP, LLC (Applebee's) at a location of 1008 Hwy 53 SE. Variance request of 95 feet in height and 360 square feet for the face of the sign. The sign variance is to vary from the allowed 25 feet to 120 feet in height of the sign and to vary from the allowed 120 square feet to 480 square feet for the face of the sign. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on September 5th and the public hearing will be on September 9th.
- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a beer and wine pouring license request from Saleh Rashid DBA: Classic Kitchen at a location of 203 Richardson Road Suite 110. The public hearing will be on September 9th.

8. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer reviewed the proposed 2013 property tax millage rates. The City of Calhoun proposed millage rate is 1.98 and the Calhoun City Schools proposed millage rate is 17.813. The current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years, and the announcement of the meeting date for the millage rate setting was advertised in the Calhoun Times on August 10th and August 14th. Mayor Palmer stated that the proposed millage rate was the same as last year and keeping the rate the same was what was used during the budget process. Therefore, by keeping the rate the same there will be no tax increase for property owners. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the City of Calhoun and Calhoun Board of Education proposed property tax millage rates. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- B. Mayor Palmer read a request by the Calhoun Police Department to withdraw \$500.00 from the asset seizure account and donate the proceeds to the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce's Drugs Don't Work program. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the donation of funds to the Drugs Don't Work program. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer read an alcohol- beer, wine, liquor manager change request for Los Magueys #3, LLC at a location of 913 Hwy 53 East. The prior manager was Gustavo Rizo and the proposed manager is Maricela Rodriguez. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the manager change request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

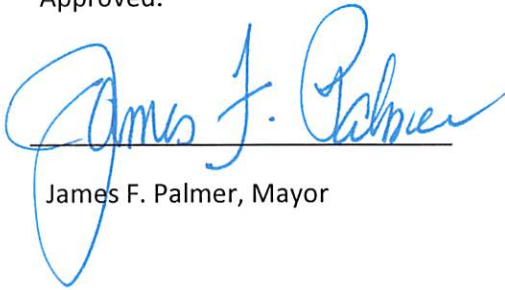
9. Other written items not on the agenda: None

10. Work Reports:

- A. Administrator Eddie Peterson
- B. General Manager Larry Vickery
- C. City Attorney George Govignon

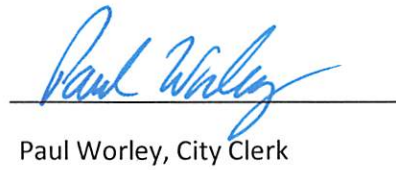
- 11.** Councilman Barton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hammond with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk