

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
JULY 25, 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; 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. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Palazzolo seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
6. **Public Hearings and Comments:**
7. **Old Business:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a Taxi Cab License request for Maximiliano Campos D/B/A: Taxi Max at a location of 100 East May Street. The public hearing will be on August 8th.
8. **New Business:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer read a request from the Calhoun Police Department to purchase a 2013 Nissan Rogue to be used by the Criminal Investigation Division. The purchase price is \$15,800 to be paid from Confiscated Assets. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- B. Administrator Peterson gave the Revolving Loan Advisory Committee report concerning a loan application by Kevin and Susan Holland D/B/A: The Rusty Zipper at a location of 112 Court Street. Mr. Peterson stated that the Hollands were approved and closed on a loan for \$75,000 a few weeks ago. However, the Revolving Loan Committee did say they were open for the loan amount to increase to a total of \$100,000 if needed. Mr. Holland had since requested the additional \$25,000 to go toward remodeling costs of the business. Mr. Peterson stated that the Revolving Loan Committee approved of the additional \$25,000 loan. Attorney Govignon stated the loan has been collateralized with a mixed portfolio investment and not real property. From a legal standpoint the City prefers something more solid like real property for collateral, but given that this is a smaller loan the collateral pledged should be sufficient. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the additional \$25,000 loan request based on the Revolving Loan Committee's recommendation. Councilwoman Palazzolo seconded the motion with all voting aye, motion approved. Mayor Palmer stated how successful the Revolving Loan Fund has been for the community for many years and how pleased they were that the Hollands have decided to open a business in Downtown Calhoun. The Hollands have a similar business in Downtown Rome and in their loan application they estimated that 30% of their business comes from Calhoun and Gordon County. They have decided to open a store in Calhoun to help keep that business local. The Rusty Zipper will be having a ribbon cutting on Friday, July 29, 2016 at 11:00am.

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 as compared to previous years. The City's reserves continue to allow for three months total operations, which is consistent with the Financial Policy. The Revolving Loan account is now in the best position of cash to total assets in many years, due to the recent loan approvals. The City has increased the amount of reserves held in investment accounts in which it will be earning between 1.5% and 2%. The City should receive between \$50,000 and \$60,000 this year in interest. These reserve accounts were not earning any interest in the traditional bank savings accounts.

B. General Manager Larry Vickery

- General Manager Vickery stated that the Electric Department had their first serious power outage in the past several years last week. A tree fell during a storm on Executive Drive and knocked out three power poles. The Electric Department worked through the night to restore power as soon as possible. Also, Mr. Vickery stated they are working on updating a water and sewer forecast master plan concerning infrastructure replacement needs. Mr.

Crawford stated that they update these plans every five years. These plans are then provided to EPD.

C. Attorney George Govignon

- Attorney Govignon briefed the Mayor and City Council concerning a resolution calling for a non-binding referendum to inquire of the electorate of the City of Calhoun. The question presented on the resolution states, "The Mayor and Council for the City of Calhoun, Georgia should begin procedures to amend or modify the present municipal charter to provide for term limitations on the elected officers of Mayor and members of the Council to then be submitted to the Georgia Assembly for enactment?" Anybody supporting term limits for the Mayor and Council would then vote yes and anybody not supporting term limits would vote no. Attorney Govignon handed out and reviewed a memorandum discussing the special election referendum process. The City could go through a special election process and have a question placed on the Tuesday, November 8, 2016 State and Federal General Election. However, Attorney Govignon advised that the matter be reserved to the next general municipal ballot for the normal 2017 election cycle. The exact method to place the term limit question on this year's ballot is unclear, but the resolution presented tonight would start the needed process for the call for the special election to be made at least ninety (90) days prior to the November 8, 2016 election. Attorney Govignon stated that this will constitute the first reading of the resolution, but there was no need to take action at tonight's meeting. Mayor Palmer suggested that they take time to review the resolution and have a public hearing on the matter at the next City Council meeting.

11. Councilman Barton made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate according to OCGA 50-14-3(b). Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
12. Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to adjourn the executive session. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
13. Councilman Barton made a motion to return to regular session. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
14. Councilman Barton made a motion to adjourn the regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Palazzolo with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:

Submitted:


James F. Palmer, Mayor


Paul Worley, City Clerk

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF GORDON
CITY OF CALHOUN**
AFFIDAVIT REGARDING CLOSURE OF OPEN MEETINGS

Personally appeared before the undersigned officer, duly authorized under the laws of the State of Georgia to administer oaths, James F. Palmer, Mayor, who in his capacity as Chairperson or the person presiding over a City Council meeting of the City of Calhoun and after being first duly sworn, certifies under oath and states to the best of his knowledge and belief the following:

At its meeting held on 7/25/16 the Council's Executive Session voted to go into closed session and exclude the public from all or a portion of its meeting. The legal exceptions applicable to the exempt matters addressed during such closed meeting are as follows (Check or initial, as appropriate:)

- Discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action, dismissal, periodic evaluation or rating of a government officer or employee. [O.C.G.A §50-14-3(6)]
- Privileged consultation with legal counsel pertaining to pending or threatened litigation, claims, administrative proceedings or settlements. [O.C.G.A §50-14-2]
- Discussing the future acquisition of real estate, authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property. [O.C.G.A §50-14-3(b)]
- Staff meetings for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law. [O.C.G.A §50-14-3(1)]
- Tax matters made confidential by state law. [O.C.G.A §50-14-2]
- Inspection of physical facilities under the jurisdiction of the City Council. [O.C.G.A §50-14-1(a)(2)]
- Meeting with a governing body, officer, agent or employee of another agency at a location outside the geographical jurisdiction of the City Council at which no final action is taken. [O.C.G.A §50-14-1(a)(2)]
- Other (Explanation and citation to statutory authority required:)

I certify that the subject matter of the closed meeting or the closed portion of this meeting was devoted to matters of official business or policy within the exceptions provided by law as set forth above.

Paul Wiley
Witness

James F. Palmer
James F. Palmer, Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed to before
me this 25 day of
July, 2016.



Misty Gauble
Notary Public for the State of Georgia