

**CITY OF CALHOUN  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET  
MAY 21, 2001 - 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James F. Palmer, Mayor  
John D. Shelton, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem  
Ray Denmon, Councilman  
Lorene Potts, Councilwoman

**ABSENT:** Ronald H. Woods, Councilman

**ALSO:** William P. Bailey, City Attorney  
Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities  
Eddie Peterson, Director of Public Safety and Public Works  
Cathy Harrison, City Administrator

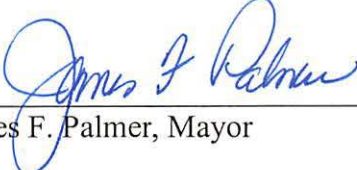
1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Councilman Denmon gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.
3. Minutes of the May 14, 2001 Regular City Council meeting were approved as written.
4. Mayor's Comments:
  - a. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of the second city budget hearing to be held on June 11, 2001 at 7:00 P.M.
  - b. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of the Patricia Samples public hearing on June 18, 2001 regarding the beer package license for Arch City Package on Highway 41 North.
  - c. Mayor Palmer reminded Council of the public hearing regarding the Supervision Services, Inc. Revolving Loan Fund application for \$45,000.00, which will create 3 new jobs, on June 11, 2001 at 7:00 P.M.
  - d. Mayor Palmer requested the Council to consider moving the June 25, 2001 meeting to June 18, 2001, in order to allow the Mayor and Council to attend the GMA meetings in Savannah. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to move the June 25 meeting to June 18, 2001 at 7:00 P.M., second by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Shelton, Councilman Denmon and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
  - e. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of the budget work session on June 4, 2001. He stated the schedule had been amended on the bond issue, making it unnecessary to hold the special meeting on June 4, 2001 for that matter. However, he stated the Airport Authority would need a special meeting with the Council to review their proposed loan applications for the terminal. Following discussion, the Council concurred that the meeting set up on June 4 at 7:00 P.M. regarding the water and sewer refunding bonds would be amended to be a meeting scheduled with the Airport Authority to discuss their financing for the airport terminal and hangars.


- f. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of the zoning hearings scheduled for June 11, 2001:
  - 1) A zoning variance request by Robin and Tracey Gentry for a lot at 151 Twin Oaks Drive. The request is for a 1.6-foot setback variance on the side of the property.
  - 2) A zoning variance request by Bob and Mary Ann Hodges for 401 Pisgah Way. The request is for a 16-foot variance to allow house to be built closer to the street, in line with other houses on the street.
  - 3) A zoning variance request by Dan E. and Melinda L. Phebus for 207 Sunset Hills to allow owners to build within three feet of north property line. There is a wooded area between properties.
  - 4) A zoning change and variance request by Jayanth and Ujwala Manay for 210 South King Street. The request is to rezone from Industrial to C-2 and to reduce the required parking spaces from 50 to 22. The proposed use would be for office buildings for lease.
  - 5) A request of Calhoun City Board of Education for a zoning variance to locate a mobile classroom unit at the back of the elementary school and one mobile classroom unit at the back of Calhoun High School.
  
5. Public Hearings and Comments:
  - a. Mayor Palmer gave a third reading of the proposed parking ordinance.
    - 1) A public hearing was opened.
    - 2) Mayor Palmer asked for comments from the public.
    - 3) Bill Thompson stated he wished to speak regarding downtown parking. He stated he was opposed to the ordinance. He felt there were serious legal problems with the ordinance as proposed, as well as enforcement and control. He stated he understands it is proposed to give relief to merchants and this is a legitimate request by merchants. However, he stated, there are two issues. One is the service providers vs. retailers. He felt the proposed ordinance exasperates the issue even further and will solve no problems, only make them worse. He felt if there are to remain retailers in the downtown area, they must be a unique downtown group of retailers that provide services and items that are not available in other locations. He stated he was opposed to the ordinance as presently presented.
    - 4) Mr. Lane Bearden stated he appreciated the proposed compromise regarding the ordinance. However, he did not think it would solve the problem and he continues to be in opposition to the ordinance.
    - 5) Joe Little stated he has been in the area and has had an office in the downtown area for ten years. He stated he finds it a rare occasion to not be able to find a parking space. He stated he did not believe the ordinance is what is needed for the downtown area.
    - 6) Lisa McCanless, with the CPA firm of Read, Martin and Slickman, stated she and others had signed a petition indicating opposition to the ordinance and their views have not changed. She stated the money that would be paid for a person to enforce the parking ordinance could be utilized to address the ineffectiveness of the downtown parking garage, which cannot be properly utilized by the general public. She stated she and others do not think the ordinance, as presently proposed, is sufficient to meet the needs of the downtown area.
    - 7) There were no other comments and the public hearing was closed.

- 8) Mayor Palmer stated the proposed ordinance will be held for a fourth reading on June 11, 2001 and at that time, it will be approved, denied or amended.
6. Old Business: **none**
7. New Business:
- a. Mayor Palmer stated the new proposed city map as exhibited on the bulletin board in the Council chambers includes all annexations and zoning changes, which have been approved through March 2001. He stated in order to keep the map updated on an annual basis, he would request the Council approve the exhibited map. Councilwoman Potts made a motion to approve the amended city map including all annexations and re-zonings through March 2001. The motion was seconded by Councilman Denmon, with Councilwoman Potts, Councilman Denmon and Mayor Pro Tem Shelton voting affirmatively, motion carried.
  - b. Mayor Palmer stated the Gordon County mass choir had requested a fund raiser block party, on the section of Court Street from Neal Street to Harkin Street on June 16, 2001, from noon until 8:00 P.M. He stated it would be necessary to close this section of Court Street. Following discussion, Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the closing of Court Street from Neal Street to Harkin Street on June 18, 2001 from noon until 8:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Potts, with Councilman Denmon, Councilwoman Potts and Mayor Pro Tem Shelton voting affirmatively, motion carried.
8. Other written items not on the agenda: **none.**
9. Work Reports:
- a. Director of Utilities, Kelly Cornwell stated the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act establish requirements that the drinking water systems of Georgia must have a source water assessment plan in place by November 2003. Director Cornwell stated in accordance with this goal, he had established a first public meeting to be held on June 14, 2001 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss the development of a plan for the water supply intakes for the City of Calhoun. He stated the meeting would be held in the Depot Community Room at 109 South King Street.
  - b. Eddie Peterson, Director of Public Safety and Public Works: **no report.**
10. Mayor Palmer inquired if it was necessary to move to Executive Session. The response was negative.
11. Councilwoman Potts made a motion to adjourn, second by Councilman Denmon, with Councilwoman Potts, Councilman Denmon and Mayor Pro Tem Shelton voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:

Submitted:

  
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James F. Palmer, Mayor

  
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Cathy Harrison, City Administrator