

**CITY OF CALHOUN
CDBG GRANT APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING
MCCONNELL COMMUNITY CENTER
115 MCCONNELL ROAD
CALHOUN, GA
FEBRUARY 27, 2007, 10:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Potts
Councilman Crowley
Councilman Hammond
Jerry Crawford, Director of Water/Sewer
Eddie Peterson, Director of Public Safety/Works
Cathy Harrison, City Administrator
Lloyd Frazier, Coosa Valley Regional Development Center
Julie Meadows, Coosa Valley Regional Development Center

ALSO: Approximately 40 Members from the West Calhoun Community
(See attached list)

1. Mayor Pro Tem Potts opened the meeting. She stated Mayor Palmer was working and unable to attend however she would take the opportunity to welcome each one in attendance and to express the Council's appreciation for the very active support for a proposed project for the community. She stated at this time she would turn the meeting over to Mr. Lewis Mann from the Community.
2. Mr. Mann asked Preston Aker to lead the group in prayer.
3. Mr. Mann stated following the January 29, 2007 meeting at 6:15 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club at 6:15 p.m. with several members of the community and with City and RDC personnel – the group had met on February 26, 2007 and outlined several areas they would like to see improved in their community. Mr. Mann stated at this time he would ask Mr. Preston Aker to review those items as follows:
 1. Renovation of the Community Center on McConnell Road.
 2. Insure proper street lighting to improve safety.
 3. Increase police patrolling and visibility in high crime areas.
 4. Sidewalk completion to include disability accessibility as well as improved beauty and pedestrian safety.
 5. A need for a manned fire station on Westside to insure proper fire protection when train tracks are blocked.
 6. Improve the appearance and value of property where empty, dilapidated structures still stand on poorly maintained land.

Mr. Aker stated in reference to the first request regarding the Renovation of the Community Center on McConnell Road, the group would like to see the bathrooms improved to allow handicap accessibility and the appliances in the kitchen replaced. They questioned the age of the roof and heating and cooling units. He stated new tables needed to be ordered for the Center.

Administrator Harrison stated she would ask the City Carpenter, Crawford Greeson to meet with Mr. Aker to review the areas and to estimate a price for the work and this item might be handled through the regular budget process rather than through the grant request.

In reference to the second request to insure proper street lighting to improve safety, one of the residents stated some of the lighting is presently being improved. Administrator Harrison stated she would check the extent of the remaining improvements to be made and notify the community.

In reference to the third item, Eddie Peterson, Director of Public Safety/Works stated he would review the request with the Chief of Police regarding additional patrolling in the area.

In reference to the fourth item, Administrator Harrison stated at the previous meeting the group discussed the numerous amount of improvements that were needed that might make it important to apply for a grant over a two year grant period in order to accomplish all of the work that needed to be done. This would include street improvements and additional sidewalks that will allow more pedestrian traffic.

In reference to item five, Administrator Harrison stated a fire station and a new fire truck had been approved in the recent SPLOST vote and that would be done over the next few years and it would be on the western of the railroad in order to give more prompt fire protection for the whole western side of the City.

Councilman Hammond stated this project is in process. The Fire Department is presently reviewing the type of equipment that will be needed since the build time for the equipment is almost two years from the order date to the actual receive date. He stated this is a project that will be completed.

In reference to the sixth item for improvements of property and the elimination of dilapidated housing Administrator Harrison, Director Peterson and Councilman Hammond reviewed the work the City has been doing over the last few years regarding dilapidated structures and working with property owners to improve or eliminate these buildings. This is an ongoing process and the work will continue. Mayor Pro Tem Potts stated she would ask the Building Inspector to work with a member of the community to make sure all of the areas that were addressed. The structures can be photographed and the information provided to the City Attorney for additional review and legal processing.

5. The group discussed the parameters of a block grant that might be applied for in two phases with the first phase for sewer infrastructure improvements and grants for housing rehabilitation that would address safety in the area. This discussion was extensive.
6. The group acknowledged that they wished to apply for the grant and wished to proceed as soon as possible in order to meet the April 2, 2007 deadline.
7. Mr. Lewis Mann asked for a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted:

Cathy Harrison, City Administrator