

CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL HEARING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 - 12:30 P.M.

Utility Conference Room  
700 West Line Street

Those present: Mayor Palmer, Councilmen Barton, Crowley, and Hammond. Others present: City Attorney Bailey, Administrator Peterson, Animal Control Officer Hicks, Police Officer Bates, and Ms. Carver.

Mayor Palmer explained the purpose of the meeting was to determine if Animal Control Officer Hicks declaration that three pit bull dogs, owned by Ms. Cynthia Carver, 223 Gordon Avenue, Calhoun, Georgia, were potentially dangerous dogs. Ms. Carver had officially asked for the hearing before the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Palmer asked Animal Control Officer Hicks to explain why he classified the three dogs as potentially dangerous dogs. Mr. Hicks gave a time line of events of his dealing with Ms. Carver's dogs which began when Ms. Carver lived at 702 Carter Street, Calhoun, Georgia. On 8-27-09 Mr. Hicks responded to the above address after a call indicated bulldogs were tied behind the residence with no food or water. Mr. Hicks took the dogs into custody and later release the dogs to Ms. Carver who was advised about proper treatment of the animals. Mr. Hick noted that the dogs were very aggressive. On 5-19-2011 a call was received by 911 Central that several dogs were tied to the front and back doors of the residence and one was tied in the back yard. Mr. Hicks removed the dogs and advised the owner to construct a proper enclosure to secure the dogs. The dogs were returned 7 days later. Again, Mr. Hicks noted the extremely aggressive behavior of the animals. On 7-5-11 an adjoining neighbor reported foul odors from the kennel, no food or water, and dogs fighting inside the enclosure. Mr. Hicks took the dogs into custody on July 5, 2011 and the three dogs remain at Calhoun Animal Control off of Kirby Road. Due to the extreme aggressive behavior of the dogs, and the potential of harm to those in the neighborhood, Mr. Hicks decided to classify the dogs as potentially dangerous dogs, and advised Ms. Carver of his determination.

Hoyt Bates, and officer for the Calhoun Police Department stated that he had helped Mr. Hicks secure the dogs on July 5, 2011. Officer Bates described the dogs as aggressive and, in his judgment, were certainly potentially dangerous dogs.

Ms. Carver explained that she had constructed the pen at Mr. Hicks request. She felt that the dogs were guard dogs and Diesel, the older male, had an extreme dislike of all men, due to an incident in Alabama. Ms. Carver stated that Diesel would not harm children, but Solomon and Jezebel were young dogs, and she was not certain they would not harm people.

Mayor Palmer explained to Ms. Carver the Council would reach a decision concerning the classification of the three dogs as potentially dangerous dogs as recorded by Mr. Hicks. Ms. Carver, Officer Bates, and Animal Control Officer Hick left the meeting.

Mayor Palmer and the Council discussed the statements and evidence provided. Councilman Hammond made a motion to uphold Mr. Hicks determination that the three dogs, Diesel, Solomon, and Jezebel were potentially dangerous dogs, and that Ms. Carver be informed of the process required for her to have the dogs returned to her possession. Councilman Crowley seconded the motion. All voted aye.



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James F. Palmer, Mayor



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Eddie Peterson, City Administrator

September 12, 2011