

AUGUST 18, 1994

6:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
ADOPTION OF A LEASH LAW
FOR CITY OF CALHOUN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
226 SOUTH WALL STREET

PRESENT: JOHN D. MEADOWS, III, MAYOR
THOMAS BOND, MAYOR PRO-TEM
JOHN D. SHELTON, COUNCILMAN
PAUL MCENTIRE, COUNCILMAN
JIMMY PALMER, COUNCILMAN

ALSO: KELLY CORNWELL, DIRECTOR UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS
CATHY HARRISON, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
WILLIE HICKS, RABIES CONTROL OFFICER

1. Mayor Meadows stated the purpose of the hearing, and stated based on the number of people in attendance, the comments would be limited to two minutes each. He asked each individual who wished to make comments to please stand and give their name and address. Mayor Meadows continued by reading the current ordinance which governs animals which are deemed to be nuisances. He stated the ordinance had caused some conflict, since the complaining party was required to sign an affidavit of complaint against his neighbor who was the owner of the dog. Following this information, Mayor Meadows opened the meeting to responses from the general public, those were as follows:
 - a. Leon Stewart, 155 Woodland Drive, stated the current ordinance is not acceptable because it promotes habitual nuisance, and provides that neighbors must be on a neighborhood watch in order to determine whose dogs are committing the acts of violation against property. He stated that the ordinance allows dogs to have better protection than people, and dogs do not pay taxes.
 - b. Phyllis Purdy, Woodland Drive, stated there were too many dogs roaming free. She stated she has a pet, and any time her dog is taken off of her property, she has him on a leash.
 - c. Elizabeth Gillespie, Woodland Drive, stated that she to had taken out complaints, but after finding nails in her driveway, and receiving other comments from her neighbors, had failed to officially file the complaint.
 - d. Don Hood, 100 Rose Way, stated he had been bitten by a dog on Sequoyah Terrace. The dog had been removed, but it was too late to protect people walking in the area.
 - e. Henry Linson, Pine Drive, stated his wife had been bitten, and that they had had several items removed from their property by dogs in the neighborhood, and that he had had several strays on his property.
 - f. Rene Wyatt, Richard Street, stated that she recently had agreed to collect cancer funds, and as she went into the Richard Street area, she was attacked by a dog, and was only able to defend herself with a piece of paper. She stated people should be able to walk freely on sidewalks and in streets.
 - g. James Fields, 140 Sunrise Terrace, stated he had a petition which contained over 225 signatures, and that he had another petition which he would send to the Council as soon as it was finalized. He stated that it was time to give the streets and sidewalks back to the people. He also provided the Council with a written statement from Mr. E.H. Hooks which stated that safety and well being of people should be a primary concern, and that the elected

- officials should work toward making the City safer.
- h. Ellis Hite, Park Place, stated that he was under a doctor's care and was required to walk two miles per day, and that it was difficult in his neighborhood because of dogs. He stated that a leash law would help to make it safer for individuals.
 - i. Elsie Haynes of Woodlawn Drive stated she loves dogs, but she is also a responsible person, and that she keeps her dog on her own property, and on a leash if it's off her property.
 - j. Pauline Peeks stated that a City without a leash law is a distraction to visitors coming in the area, that they are chased personally, as well as their vehicles. She stated that last week, she had over eight dogs in her yard, and that she had installed some new landscaping, and had had it torn up by other people's dogs on her property.
 - k. Elaine Boaz, Trammell Street, stated that many people are not responsible, and this irresponsibility causes danger to animals, causes animals to be forgotten, and left without proper care, and that she felt a leash law would help to prevent some of the negligence.
 - l. John Hall of Park Place agreed with the statements made by Ellis Hite, stating that there are dozens of dogs on his street, some owners are responsible, but others are not, and usually eight or more roam free, and are continually fighting at night. He stated owners won't change because of expense, however, it's important for the City to adopt a leash law for the safety of small children, and also because the neighborhoods are growing, and more dogs will be roaming free as the City grows.
 - m. John Childers, 111 Devonwood, stated he has been victimized by dogs, and he is tired of it. The Council should take action, that they certainly don't want a 70 year old man running around after dogs with a loaded gun.
 - n. Dawn McFadden, Cherry Street, said that she had lived in Carrolton prior to moving to Calhoun, and that Carrolton had a leash law which provided a dog jail, and any dog left to roam free after the third warning was put to sleep.
 - o. Nancy Stewart, Devonwood Drive, stated that pools must be fenced, so there should be no problem with dogs being fenced. She stated property owners should not be required to clean up after those animals which are left unattended.
 - p. Pam Edwards, Stonehaven Drive, stated that she couldn't walk in her neighborhood because of the dogs, and that controls are needed to protect pedestrians.
 - q. Bill Wyatt, Richard Street, stated that owners of animals should make those animals remain on their own property and not allow them to roam free.
 - r. Diane Watford, Humane Society, stated the Humane Society supports a leash law, that it would relieve the Rabies Control Officer to a great extent, and that she understood the County was not able to adopt a leash law because of the large area, but for a highly populated area that a leash law was a humane way of handling the problem.
 - s. Jessie Hite, Park Place, stated she had a new grandchild in her family and that her children would not allow her to take the baby for a ride in the stroller in the neighborhood because of the dogs.
 - t. Wyolene Kuhlman, Cherry Hill Drive, stated that she and her granddaughter and two great granddaughters live in her house, and that it is impossible for her to take her great grandchildren for a walk because of the dogs in the neighborhood. She stated that she had recently had a dog to get into her pool by jumping the fence, and that she


had to call the police to help get the dog out of the pool.

- u. Willie Hicks, Rabies Control Officer for the City of Calhoun, stated that during the past seven months, he had licensed 225 dogs, handled four dog bites, handled 135 cats, and had picked up 321 dogs, of which 262 were destroyed. He stated that the City did need a leash law, which hopefully would prevent some dog bites.
- v. Councilman Palmer stated that he had had three dogs, and one had gotten run over and one of the dogs was smaller and been kept up. He stated since being a Councilman he had only one person discuss a leash law, and it was someone concerned about dogs at East Side School, and the possibility of safety at the school.
- w. Mayor Meadows stated that his wife very much wanted a leash law, however, that he had three dogs and that he does let two of them run four days of the week. It is a question on which he has mixed views. He stated he had had as many calls from people wanting to leave the ordinance as it is, as he has had requesting a leash law.
- x. Councilman McEntire stated that all the calls he has received, have been from people wishing to have a leash law, and that was primarily why this meeting had been requested.
- y. Councilman Bond thanked each one for coming, and stated that he tends to agree that a dog owner needs to care for their pets. He stated that he himself had had problems in the past with his neighbors' dogs, and that he would certainly be giving the meeting and the request serious consideration.
- z. Mayor Meadows stated that copies of leash laws from surrounding areas, will be obtained and will be reviewed by the September 12, 1994 Council Meeting. It will take two readings and a public hearing before an ordinance can be passed, and that it more than likely will be the first meeting in October before an ordinance can be adopted. He stated this would give everyone a chance to once again to air their views on a particular proposed ordinance. He also stated that if an ordinance was adopted, there would need to be a time interval in which dog owners could comply with the ordinance.
- aa. Mayor Meadows also stated that a state law had been passed regarding dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs, and that regulation would remain in effect because it was patterned after the requirements of state regulations.
- bb. Councilman Shelton stated that he felt as most of the members of the audience, that it is the responsibility of pet owners to be responsible. He stated if he had an animal, he would keep it on his property.


2. There were no other comments, and Mayor Meadows adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30 P.M.

Approved:

Submitted:



 John D. Meadows, III
 Mayor



 Cathy Harrison
 City Adminsitrator

