

JUN 29, 1995

9:00 A.M.

SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
GORDON COUNTY COURT HOUSE ANNEX
GRAND JURY ROOM

PRESENT:

JOHN D. MEADOWS, III, MAYOR
THOMAS H. BOND MAYOR PRO-TEM
JOHN D. SHELTON, JR., COUNCILMAN
PAUL MCENTIRE, COUNCILMAN
JIMMY PALMER, COUNCILMAN
WILLIAM P. BAILEY, CITY ATTORNEY
CATHY HARRISON, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

ALSO:

BILL ANDERSON, COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
DANNY HIGHTOWER, COMMISSIONER
KATHY GOLD, COMMISSIONER
TONY FERRELL, COMMISSIONER
RON FREE, COMMISSIONER
ALAN THERIAULT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
SUZANNE HUTCHINSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

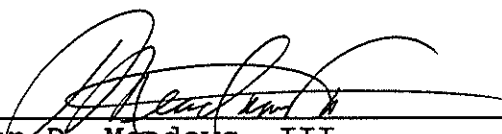
1. Commission Chairman Bill Anderson called the joint City and County meeting to order stating the purpose of the meeting was to have a further discussion of all Elected Officials from the City of Calhoun and Gordon County to discuss the proposed distribution formula for the local option sales tax. Chairman Anderson stated that he believed both parties are opposed to losing the tax, and that he hopes a formula can be established which will provide continuation of the tax. Mayor Meadows stated that there were two official motions under discussion at this time, one being a proposal of 20.34% from the County and a counter proposal of 25% from the City. Mayor Meadows stated that in an effort to move the discussion along, the City was willing to move its proposal from 25% to 23%. Ron Free stated that while the 23% was better, that he felt that it will hurt the County in the early years, and he would like to see other discussion. Councilman Bond stated that he felt it was the aim of the City to be interested in a formula that would be fair and equitable to both City and County. Councilman McEntire stated that he agreed and the City and County might wish to look to a graduated formula as opposed to a straight percentage for the next five years. Commissioner Ferrell stated that his initial thoughts were he felt the County should have 100% of the tax in order for it to be used for tax roll back. He stated, however, that he had reviewed services which are paid for by all tax payers, but which are not provided to City tax payers such as fire protection, transportation, animal control, building and code inspection and others which total over \$3,000,000.00, and if broken down per tax payer would amount to over \$115.00 annually and would be almost \$1,000,000.00 when spread to the City population. He stated based on his calculations, a fair and equitable percentage would be 17%. Councilman Bond stated that while he appreciated Commissioner Ferrell's ideas, that he felt there were other considerations also. He stated the City of Calhoun presently has Police and Fire Departments which are in excess of its population, because the City must provide services for a population many times greater than its resident population because jobs and retail activity are within the city limits. He stated that this should be taken into consideration as well. Mayor Meadows stated the law had been changed which initiated more discussion between cities and counties, and that this new law was initiated primarily by more counties than cities. Commissioner Hightower stated the City does furnish water throughout the county, and would like to see more water line extensions and more efforts to increase water pressure, and with some encouragement this will be done, and this will make him more agreeable to increasing the formula.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bond and Councilman McEntire stated that it is the City's aim to continue to expand its water system throughout the County, and also to continue to make improvements as is affordable. Councilman Bond stated that if they will recall, the City had asked for increases in this area and the last Special Purpose Tax that had been put before the voters. He stated the City would continue to do these efforts, however, money would be a factor in the time limit. Councilman Palmer stated the City of Calhoun had been discussing the Resaca Tank as a way to ease water pressure in the Resaca-Sugar Valley area, and that land had been acquired, but funding has not been available for the tank. Commissioner Gold stated that she would say that the City's attitude was indeed selfish, and that she felt that the City, according to population, did not deserve any higher than 17% or 18% of the tax. Councilman Palmer stated the quality of life should be considered, and that the City of Calhoun spends a lot of its resources in providing a better quality of life, not only for the residents of the City of Calhoun, but also for Gordon County. Ron Free stated he would like to propose a formula of 20% allocation for the City of Calhoun for the Years 1996, 1997 and 1998, 22% for 1999 and 23% the Year 2000. Commissioner Ferrell stated the City taxes currently would not accommodate those funds, and wished to know if the City would increase its taxes in order to take the additional sales tax, since it must be used for roll back. Mayor Pro-Tem Bond stated the City of Calhoun currently supports a great deal of its General Fund operations by transfers from its Utility Funds which should be used for expansion of its systems. There will be no problem in shifting more of the responsibility of General Fund Operations to the tax base as it should be. Chairman Bill Anderson stated that he felt the offer proposed by Commissioner Free was a palatable one, and he felt it could be a viable formula. City Councilman Shelton stated he would offer the formula of 20% for 1996 and 1997, 21% for 1998, 22% for 1999 and 23% for 2000. Commissioner Ferrell stated the next few years would be crucial for the County, since landfill regulations may force the County to put additional monies in trust, and this would be a reason for having the lower percentage for the first three years. Commissioner Gold stated that she was opposed to anything above 19% for the City of Calhoun. Mayor Pro-Tem Bond made a motion for the City's offer to be amended to 20% for the Years 1996, 1997 and 1998; 22% for 1999 and 23% for the year 2000, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the certificates and any other documents necessary regarding this matter, 2nd by Councilman McEntire with Mayor Pro-Tem Bond, Councilman McEntire, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Palmer voting affirmatively, motion carried. Commissioner Ron Free made a motion to amend the County's certificate to include 20% for the City of Calhoun for the Years 1996, 1997 and 1998, 22% for 1999 and 23% for 2000. Fairmount's percentage to be 2.5% for each year with the remainder for Gordon County, 2nd by Commissioner Hightower and approved.

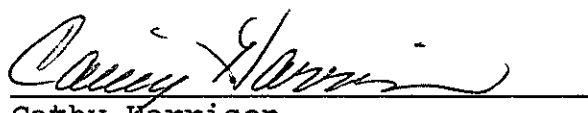
2. A motion was made and 2nd to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:15 A.M.

Approved:

Submitted:



John D. Meadows, III
Mayor



Cathy Harrison
City Administrator/Clerk