

AUGUST 22, 1996

7:00 P.M.

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
THE CITY OF CALHOUN CDBG
APPLICATION FOR THE MILL
VILLAGE AREA
ECHOTA BAPTIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
35 COLLEGE STREET

PRESENT: JIMMY PALMER, COUNCILMAN
RUTH POWELL, HOME PROGRAM DIRECTOR
JOHN SWEITZER, SWEITZER ENGINEERING
ANDY SMYTH, SWEITZER ENGINEERING
PHILLIP ANDERSON, MINISTER ECHOTA BAPTIST
CATHY HARRISON, CITY ADMINSTRATOR

ALSO: 19 MEMBERS OF ECHOTA MILL VILLAGE
COMMUNITY

1. Adminsitrator Harrison opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She explained the purpose of the public hearing, and the City's intention of applying for a \$1,000,000.00 CDBG Grant which would be used primarily in the Mill Village area. Ruth Powell reviewed the HOME Program which has been in affect for approximately one and one half years, and reviewed the application for the block grant, which would include \$200,000.00 of HOME funds. She reviewed how the program would operate, and some of the repairs that could be included in a HOME Program renovation. John Sweitzer of Sweitzer Engineering reviewed how the other \$800,000.00 would be spent. He stated a portion would be used for infrastructure improvements, these being for replacement of main sewer lines and water lines in the area, adding additional fire hydrants, improving street radiuses, and addressing drainage to the extent possible. A second phase of housing funds would be available in the program which include replacing water lines and sewer lines within the homes, in addition to possible replacement of electrical wiring within the homes. Mr. Sweitzer stated the purpose of the hearing was to get input from residents of the area as to what they felt were the most pressing needs, and what should be addressed with the grant funds should the community receive funding.

Myrtle Robinson asked if central heat would be available under the program. Ruth Powell stated that under the HOME Program, central heat and airconditioning were available, and in the past year and a half has been under an energy grant program.

Grover Dinsmore stated that in his opinion, replacement of the electrical wiring in the individual homes was one of the most needed items, because most of the houses had the original wiring, and that while that wiring was appropriate at that time, that it is no longer sufficient for all of the electrical appliances that are available and on the market today.

Engineer Sweitzer stated the infrastructure portion of the project would include replacement of water mains, also increasing the size of these mains in order for additional fire hydrants to be added, and that the turning radiuses on some of the streets would be improved. He also addressed the possibility of adding guard rails for those areas where the houses were very close to the road. He stated that in his review, most sewers were inadequate, and needed to be

replaced.

Grover Dinsmore stated the sewer for the individual homes was old, and in some cases completely eroded, causing infiltration of storm water. However, he stated the first priority for any home repairs should be replacement of electrical wiring. He stated the doors and windows in some of the houses were in very poor condition.

Mr. & Mrs. Ruddell stated there was a need for sidewalks to be added, because quite a number of the residents walk to town or walk to the grocery store located within a short distance of their community. They also stated that several trees at the intersection had limbs blocking the view, which make it very hazardous.

Ricky Roberts stated the drainage in the area was very poor, and that some houses were completely surrounded by water during heavy periods of rain.

Chris Chapman stated that she had filed a HOME application for her mother and dad, and at this time she is on a waiting list and is very hopeful that their home will be renovated through the HOME Program very shortly.

Councilman Palmer stated that he was supportive of the application, and that on behalf of the Council that they will do everything possible to secure funding and make the improvements that are needed most with the funds available. Mr. Palmer stated that the Council will review the Administrator's suggestion, that the City's annual sidewalk repair funds be diverted to this area for the next year if funding is obtained.

Betty Robinson stated her aunt lives in the area, and that she has witnessed the terrific improvements that have been made in the Peter Street area with similar grant funds, and that she looks forward to similar improvements in the Mill Village area if funding can be obtained. She stated that she was very interested in preserving the Mill Village Housing for historic reasons.

Betty Rapp who lives in the area, stated that she was interested in possible replacement of water and sewer lines inside the house that she owns because the original galvanized pipes are still in the homes. She stated that she had replaced her wiring.

Harrison stated that should funding be available to do only one of plumbing or replacement of wiring, the owner would choose. There were no further comments from the public, and the hearing was closed. Harrison stated the city elected officials and city staff appreciated everyone's attendance and their interest in the program.

2. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted:



Cathy Harrison
City Administrator