

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALHOUN

WHEREAS, the City of Calhoun passed a temporary moratorium on the acceptance or consideration of all applications for zoning decisions, land disturbance permits, and licenses for gas stations, convenience stores, food marts, and other related establishments seeking to sell alcoholic or THC-infused consumables for off-premises consumption on July 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City of Calhoun is presently analyzing its zoning and related codes in order to revise said codes to meet the needs of its citizens and the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Calhoun is reviewing the codes pertaining to the permitting of gas stations, convenience stores, and food marts, and considering additional regulations related to the same; and

WHEREAS, this review is being conducted based on a number of factors, but especially because these businesses offer products that, if not distributed correctly, are inherently dangerous for minors, such as alcohol products and smoking-related products and paraphernalia; and

WHEREAS, this review is being conducted because the number of applications and probable applications for gas stations and convenience stores has increased significantly in the last year and has raised concerns among city residents, city staff, and city elected officials; and

WHEREAS, this review is being conducted to review the location and proximity to other establishments of such shops that engage in the retail sale of low THC oil, tobacco products, tobacco related objects, alternative nicotine products, vapor products, cannabidiol (CBD), or products containing CBD; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of these stores has increased traffic, affected traffic patterns, lead to light pollution due to late-night operations, increased litter from cigarette butts and pre-packaged foods, violated best practices of the Environmental Protection Agency by placing underground tanks in environmentally sensitive areas (flood plains, wetlands, etc.); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council need further time to research and review where, how many, and under what terms, gas stations and convenience stores are most appropriate within the City; and

WHEREAS, due to the above and due to the upcoming holiday schedule, the City needs an appropriate additional amount of time to conduct such review, and desires to continue its moratorium for such time period in the best interest of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City has the right under Georgia law to issue a moratorium for a reasonable amount of time without the necessity of complying with the Georgia Zoning Procedures Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun as follows:


Section 1:

The City does hereby resolve that, effective as of the date of the adoption hereof, an extension of the moratorium on the issuance of permits for any gas station or convenience store, is necessary for the welfare, safety, health, and goodwill of the citizens of the City of Calhoun. Such moratorium shall remain in effect until the end of the business day on May 1, 2026, unless the same ends earlier by the affirmative action of the City Council.

IT IS SO RESOLVED, this 22nd day of December, 2025.


James F. Palmer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

