

The Chattahoochee Quill

December 7, 2025 - The Last Meeting of the Year: A Quiet Room, A Loud Warning

THE FINAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE YEAR TOOK PLACE ON **December 4, 2025**, AND WHILE THE AGENDA MOVED BRISKLY FROM ADOPTION TO ACCOLADES, THE UNDERCURRENT OF THE EVENING WAS UNMISTAKABLE.

A SOFT QUIET.

A PRACTICED CALM.

THE STRANGE STILLNESS THAT SETTLES IN JUST BEFORE THE WEATHER BREAKS.

THE RECOGNITIONS WERE HEAVY WITH AFFECTION. THE NEW MAYOR-ELECT EXPRESSED HER DEEP ADMIRATION FOR MAYOR TOM REED, AND THE HANDOFF BETWEEN THE TWO FELT MORE CEREMONIAL THAN CIVIC. A REVISIONIST HISTORY LESSON FOLLOWED, A NOSTALGIC NARRATIVE OF THE “HERITAGE FAMILY” AND THE STORY OF THE LAND. YET ITS MESSAGE WAS UNMISTAKABLY SHAPED: THAT THE MODERN IDENTITY OF CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS OWES ITSELF TO ONE DEVELOPER, AND ONE VISION, RATHER THAN THE RURAL CITIZENS WHO BUILT THEIR LIVES HERE LONG BEFORE THE BRANDING BEGAN.

STILL, AFTER 14 YEARS OF SERVICE, IT IS RIGHT TO ACKNOWLEDGE MAYOR REED’S ROLE. HE LED THE CITY HE HELPED CREATE.

BUT THE TABLE HE SET IS THE ONE WE, NOT HE, MUST NOW LIVE WITH.

AND BEGINNING IN JANUARY, THE **new dais** WILL INHERIT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT GETS SERVED NEXT.

The Issue That Never Got Its Hearing

BEFORE THE POLITICAL STORMS OF OCTOBER TOOK OVER THE NARRATIVE, BEFORE THE DRAMA, THE DISTRACTIONS, AND THE OCTOBER SURPRISE, A RESIDENT STOOD BEFORE THE COUNCIL ON **October 7, 2025**, RAISING A CONCERN THAT SHOULD HAVE SHAKEN THE CITY AWAKE.

INSTEAD, HER WARNING WAS SWALLOWED BY CAMPAIGN NOISE.

HER TESTIMONY REVEALED SOMETHING DEEPER THAN A PROPERTY-LINE DISPUTE: **major discrepancies in surveys, plats, and recorded lot sizes throughout an entire subdivision.**

- HER HOME WAS PURCHASED AND TAXED AS A **3.21-acre lot**
- THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT CALLED IT **1.82 acres**
- A NEW SURVEY CLAIMED **1.24 acres**
- COUNTY TAX RECORDS CONFIRMED THE **3.21 acres**
- PLAT BOOKS INCLUDED **typos, missing signatures, missing dates**
- A WALKING PATH BEHIND HOMES WAS **never disclosed**
- MULTIPLE RESIDENTS ARE NOW **upside down** FINANCIALLY DUE TO FAULTY OR CONFLICTING RECORDS

THIS IS NOT A CLERICAL OVERSIGHT.

THIS IS A SYSTEMS FAILURE.

AND IF IT HAPPENED IN ONE SUBDIVISION, IT MAY BE HAPPENING ACROSS THE CITY.

THE OCTOBER RESIDENT SOUNDED THE ALARM.

BUT WHILE POLITICS DOMINATED THE HEADLINES, HER WARNING QUIETLY DISAPPEARED.

COME JANUARY, THE NEW DAIS MUST RETRIEVE IT, AND ADDRESS IT.

NOT WITH CEREMONY, BUT WITH ACTION.

The City We Have Now Requires Leadership We Have Not Yet Seen

POPULATION GROWTH, MOST OF IT CONCENTRATED IN ONE DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUES AT A PACE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE CANNOT SUSTAIN.

THAT REALITY NOW DEMANDS:

1. A Second Firehouse

NOT AS A LUXURY BUT A NECESSITY.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS WILL NOT DECREASE, DISTANCE AND RESPONSE TIMES WILL NOT IMPROVE, WITHOUT IT.

2. Real Parkway Safety Measures

ANOTHER FATALITY OCCURRED ON THE PARKWAY THIS MONTH, NEARLY THE SAME STRETCH AS THE PREVIOUS ONE.

HOW MANY WARNINGS MUST THE PAVEMENT GIVE BEFORE THE CITY RESPONDS?

3. Transparent Public Safety Communication

THE POLICE CHIEF’S HOLIDAY WARNING WAS CLEAR:

- LOCK YOUR DOORS
- SECURE YOUR BELONGINGS
- BE MINDFUL OF WHAT YOU PLACE OUTSIDE
- REQUEST DRIVE-BYS IF TRAVELING

THESE ARE SEASONAL NICETIES.

THEY ARE INDICATORS OF A GROWING POPULATION WITH GROWING RISKS, RISKS THE CITY CAN NO LONGER BRUSH OFF WHILE APPLAUDING ITS OWN “VISION.”

January Will Tell Us Who We Have Elected

GOODBYES HAVE BEEN SAID.

ACCOLADES HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED.

HISTORY HAS BEEN REWRITTEN FOR THE EVENING PROGRAM.

NOW BEGINS THE REAL TEST.

WILL THE NEW DAIS DO THE WORK IT PROMISED?

WILL THE MAYOR-ELECT FIND HER OWN VOICE AND BRING LONG-DELAYED ORDINANCES, LIKE **ethics**, PRESERVATION OVERSIGHT, AND PLANNING REFORM, TO COMPLETION?

WILL THE CITY ATTORNEY STOP BURYING PROGRESS IN PROCEDURAL QUICKSAND?

OR WILL WE WATCH YET ANOTHER YEAR DRIFT BY, CARRIED ON THE SAME FAMILIAR CURRENT OF DELAY, AVOIDANCE, AND SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT?

THE STORM IS NOT APPROACHING.

It is here.

AND THIS TIME, THE CITIZENS ARE WATCHING WITH CLEAR EYES.

UNTIL THE NEXT WHISPER,

YOUR FAITHFUL OBSERVER IN CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS