

The Chattahoochee Quill

Sunday, November 30, 2025 - The Stillness Before the Storm

DEAR GENTLE READER

IT IS SUNDAY ONCE AGAIN, AND TIME FOR ANOTHER REFLECTION FROM THE QUILL.

OTHER THAN THANKSGIVING’S WARM GLOW AND OUR RECENT MEDITATION ON THE PURITANS, A REMINDER OF HOW TAKING, RESHAPING, AND REWRITING HISTORY IS A UNIQUELY AMERICAN PASTIME, NOT MUCH HAS HAPPENED ON THE SURFACE. IN FACT, IT HAS BEEN **remarkably quiet**.

SUSPICIOUSLY QUIET.

THIS IS NOTABLE, GIVEN THE REZONING APPLICATIONS HANGING IN THE BALANCE AND THE NEW DAIS, FRESHLY POLISHED AND WAITING TO TAKE THEIR SEATS COME JANUARY.

WE HAVE ENTERED A SEASON TRADITIONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH REFLECTION, ANTICIPATION, AND TAKING STOCK OF WHAT LIES AHEAD. YET THE STILLNESS IN CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS FEELS LESS LIKE CALM... AND MORE LIKE THE MOMENT A BAROMETER DROPS.

SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE TREE LINE, A STORM IS GATHERING.

AND IT IS COMING FOR US.

Storm Questions for a Waiting City

WHEN THE NEW DAIS TAKES THEIR OATH, WILL THEY HONOR THE PROMISES WHISPERED TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS?

OR WILL THEY FOLLOW THE WELL-WORN SCRIPT AND MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO, OFFERING DEFERENCE TO DEVELOPERS RATHER THAN THE PEOPLE?

WILL OUR MAYOR-ELECT FINALLY FIND HER OWN VOICE, ONE UNTETHERED FROM THE PATTERNS OF HER PREDECESSOR, AND RESOLVE THE UNFINISHED ORDINANCES, ESPECIALLY THE LONG-AWAITED ETHICS CODE?

OR WILL SHE KEEP TRANSPARENCY AT BAY, HUMMING THE FAMILIAR TUNE OF NOT YET, NOT NOW, NOT CONVENIENT?

WILL THE COUNCIL STEP FORWARD AND LEAD?

OR WILL OUR CITY ATTORNEY CONTINUE TO BLOCK PROGRESS WITH PROCEDURAL FOG AND LEGAL SLEIGHT-OF-HAND?

THESE QUESTIONS LINGER IN THE STILLNESS LIKE DISTANT THUNDER.

We Are Not Ready — And That Is On Us

THE TRUTH IS SIMPLE AND SHARP:

We are unprepared.

NOT BECAUSE WE LACKED WARNINGS, BUT BECAUSE WE ALLOWED THIS DRIFT TO HAPPEN.

WHEN ORDINANCES REMAIN UNFINISHED, WHEN PAST ERRORS GO UNCORRECTED, WHEN REZONING REQUESTS PILE UP WITHOUT CLARITY OR CONSISTENCY, THE STORM DOES NOT ARRIVE BY CHANCE. IT ARRIVES BY INVITATION.

January Will Test Us All

MAYOR-ELECT CAMILLE LOWE WOULD BE WISE TO HAVE HER GAME PLAN READY.
BECAUSE WE, THE CITIZENS OF CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS, HAVE OURS.

THIS TIME, WE WILL NOT BE SILENT.

THIS TIME, WE WILL NOT BE SIDELINED.

THIS TIME, WE WILL NOT ACCEPT AN ILLEGAL SHIFT, A PROCEDURAL BYPASS, OR A QUIET REARRANGING OF
THE RULES.

THE STORM IS COMING.

UNTIL THE NEXT WHISPER,
YOUR FAITHFUL OBSERVER IN CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS