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## Meter cover finally to be replaced



**Dale Calhoun sits at a table in City Hall with some of the pieces of a broken meter cover that has not been replaced, even though he had repeatedly tried for months to have the city staff replace it.**

**Story and Photo By Jeff M. Hardison © July 13, 2016 @ 10:57 a.m.**

**FANNING SPRINGS** – A 79-year-old man who had repeatedly attempted over months and months to have Fanning Springs city staff perform a relatively simple act found satisfaction Tuesday evening (July 12) at the regular month meeting of the Fanning Springs City Council.

Dale Calhoun said the thick metal cover that goes over the water meter for his home was destroyed by “the man with the tractor who mows the easements.”

Calhoun came to City Hall before, and asked for help to get it replaced. The women behind the counter had told him they would pass the information on. Calhoun also asked the water meter reader to get it replaced, and that also was to no avail.

The Tuesday evening meeting was his first visit to a Fanning Springs City Council meeting, but he figured he may see results if he went to the people elected to represent him – since the city workers could not get the job done from his request alone.

Calhoun said the uncovered meter could be broken if it remained uncovered. If it was broken on his side of the line, Calhoun said he knows that would be his responsibility to pay for that repair; but if the waterline broke on the city’s side of the meter, then all of the taxpayers would be funding that repair.

Finally, after months of trying to have this hazard and liability for the property owner and the city taken care of – because a person could be injured from stepping into the uncovered meter

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area – it was promised to be taken care of.

“Doyle, could you handle that for us?” Fanning Springs City Council President Paul Chase asked, after hearing from the city resident.

“Yes sir,” answered Doyle Frierson, Fanning Springs’ superintendent of operations - water, sewer, animal control and roads. “We’ve had a lot of higher priority of items for the last little bit of time.”

“I’m sure you do,” Calhoun said to Frierson.

“We’ll put this right on top,” Frierson said.

“Thank you,” Calhoun said. “I appreciate your time.”

In Fanning Springs, the mayor is the chief executive officer of the day-to-day operations. For this request, though, it appears as if the leader of City Council was able to get the job done for the utility customer.

The mayor of Fanning Springs is Howell E. “Trip” Lancaster III. The nickname “Trip” comes from him being “the third,” Lancaster has said before.