

RESOLUTION R – 004– 17

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTANCE OF PERMITTING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND COMMERCIAL DEEP WELL DRILLING**

**WHEREAS,** the Sole Commissioner of Walker County is the county governing authority for Walker County, Georgia;

**WHEREAS,** the Georgia Constitution and general laws of the State grant the local governing authority of each County jurisdiction to control all county property and to further adopt such ordinances and regulations as necessary to protect the public health, public safety, and general welfare of its citizens;

**WHEREAS,** Walker County has adopted Planning and Zoning Ordinances, including the Environmental Criteria Planning Ordinance, which are designed in part to preserve, restore, and enhance the quality of the environment of Walker County and to set policies for the protection of particularly sensitive environments;

**WHEREAS,** the said Ordinances have the further purpose of regulating certain materials, facilities, and activities which if unregulated would have the potential to result in water table decline, pollution of groundwater and surface waters, damage to wetlands, damage or deterioration of steep slopes and mountainous land, and other hazards and threats to the natural environment in Walker County;

**WHEREAS,** Walker County finds it desirable and necessary to study the impact of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) and other commercial deep well drilling into and around the underground aquifer and water supply watershed that supplies Walker County and its citizens with drinking water;

**WHEREAS,** the Georgia Supreme Court has held that a moratorium with response to the application of a zoning ordinance may be put in place for a reasonable period time without the necessity of complying with the notice requirements of the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law; and

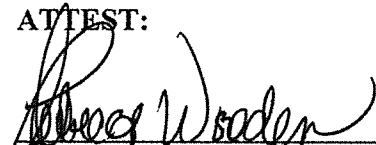
**WHEREAS,** Walker County finds it appropriate that a moratorium barring for 180 days the acceptance of applications for permits pursuant to said County ordinances for construction of any derrick, building, or other structure for the purpose of fracking or deep well drilling in or around the underground aquifer in Walker County, and further barring any other activities relating to fracking or commercial deep well drilling in or around the underground aquifer, or its surface recharge areas, supplying Walker County and its citizens with drinking water.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Walker County does hereby enact a moratorium barring for 180 days the acceptance of any applications for permits pursuant to any and all statutes, ordinances, regulations, rules, and requirements,

construction of any derrick, building, or other structure for the purpose of fracking or commercial deep well drilling in or around the underground aquifer in Walker County, and further barring for 180 days any other activities relating to fracking or commercial deep well drilling in or around the underground aquifer, or its surface recharge areas, supplying Walker County and its citizens with drinking water. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its approval, the public's health, safety, and welfare demanding it.

SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 23 day of February, 2017.

ATTEST:

  
REBECCA WOODEN, County Clerk

WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

  
SHANNON WHITFIELD, Commissioner

