

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
FEBRUARY 9, 2015 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Al Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem
George Crowley, Councilman
David Hammond, Councilman

ABSENT: Matt Barton, Councilman

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; George Govignon, City Attorney; Paul Worley, City Clerk; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
 - A. Councilman Crowley gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the agenda and Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 City Council meeting. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer congratulated Tripp Morrison for being named the 2015 Junior Mayor. Tripp and the other candidates did a tremendous job raising money to benefit the Family Resource Center of Gordon County.
 - B. Mayor Palmer stated that it had been brought to his attention that there was an error in the recently passed FY 2016 budget calendar concerning the budget officer and stated that Attorney George Govignon had a recommendation for an amended calendar. Attorney Govignon stated that he composed a memo concerning the budget calendar addressed to the Mayor and Council after Councilman Hammond had asked him to examine some of the City's budgeting policies. The budget ordinance for the City has elected the Budget Officer to be the City Administrator and the state statute designates the Budget Officer as the "point person" in the preliminary budget preparations. According to the statute the budget officer has to be one person and in the City's case that is the City Administrator. However, the General Manager of Utilities should still be involved with budget preparation of the departments he oversees. Then the budget can be presented to the governing authority for further examination and policy formulation. Therefore, the budget calendar should be amended to include the term Budget Officer

in the actions to be taken column. However, as mentioned in the memorandum, all members of the Council or Mayor are welcome to attend preliminary meetings. However, according to the Open Meetings Act of 2012 if a quorum exists at one of these meetings it would have to be advertised properly as an open meeting. These initial budget meetings are not intended to be public meetings because they are more proprietary and managerial in nature in that Department Heads need the opportunity to discuss the department's budgetary needs with administration officials. After these meetings, then the budget process is intended to move into the public realm with elected official input into policy concerns. Finally, the proposed amended budget calendar would be sufficient to match state law and the City's code of ordinances for budget preparation. Councilman Hammond made a motion to adopt the amended budget calendar. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

6. Council Comments:

A. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the January report as follows:

1) Electric Department

- o The Bad Pole Replacement program continues on South Industrial Blvd.
- o The Georgia Department of Transportation has released the permit to light Exit 312. This will be the first LED illuminated interchange in Georgia and will include thirty-five lights on the four ramps and four high mask poles at the corners of the bridge. The first component should start arriving in about eight weeks and the project should be completed before the end of June 2015.
- o The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for September was 36,273,845 kWh.

Work orders in process or completed

- o Newly created-112
- o Completed and closed- 106
Consisting of:
 - o Capital construction- 7
 - o Street and security lighting-59
 - o Distribution Maintenance-15
 - o Electric Locate Tickets- 202

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- o Upgraded two existing customers to new network and added bandwidth.
- o Started construction on moving customer to new location.
- o Disconnected two Internet customers.
- o Added 40 Meg of internet to existing customers.
- o Completed implementation of 911 Service to correctly identify city and school phone numbers with building addresses.
- o Created data collection database and continued collecting data for the FCC's mandatory data collection on dedicated services provided.
- o Updated financial software for data clean up.

- Opened 22 and closed 19 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Upgraded GIS server and user's software to latest version.
- Continued to work on water distribution layer for water modeling project.
- Setup procedure to email meter data to industrial customers.
- Created map for Chamber of Commerce showing new information on McDaniel Station Rd.
- Updated zoning parcel data.
- Updated pre-fire plans for Fire Department.
- Updated fiber mapping for Telecom Department.
- Updated addresses from changes in billing account data.
- Updated City and GIS websites.

4) Downtown Development Authority

- The Historic Preservation Commission met on February 4th.

B. Mayor Palmer gave the January report as follows:

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

- The Brittany Drive Expansion Project- The project is nearing completion and start up is scheduled for the first week of March.
- Clarifier Mechanism Replacement Project- The new mechanisms and troughs are on site. Installation has begun and is approximately 75% complete.
- I-75 & Red Bud Road utility relocate- Construction began on November 18th and the utility relocate project is nearing completion. However, the project is currently being delayed by Atlanta Gas Light and by GDOT. The utility relocate project should be complete as soon as AGL relocates their gas main.
- The 2" galvanized line replacement project- Construction is underway on the first project area of Newtown Road and the second project area in the Hunts Subdivision is scheduled to begin in April.
- Flocculation and sedimentation control project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant: Work began on August 13th on the large basin and currently the project is four to six weeks behind schedule, but progress is being made. Basin number four is scheduled to be completed in March.
- Water system modeling project is on schedule and should be complete in the next few weeks.
- SR 225 Water Main Relocation (GDOT Bridge@ New Echota) The DOT has begun construction for this project. GDOT has made revisions which now will require that approximately 750 feet of water main be relocated.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 288,260,000

- Daily average: 9,608,666
- Wells: 137,100,000
- Big Springs: 0
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 47.5
- Rainfall- 4.27"

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 5.582 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 9, average suspended effluent of 11, and an average COD of 61.

4) Water Distribution

- 2 Water connections, 39 water service leaks repaired, 18 water main leaks repaired, 6 water services changed to new main line, 9 yards or roadway edges repaired due to previous work, 31 utility locates called in for work orders, 370 utility locates responded to, and 86 misc. calls
- Completed installing 400 feet of 8" ductile iron pipe along Hwy 136 West for new service.
- Completed installation of new 6" water meter for Shaw Plant on South Industrial Blvd.
- Completed replacement of 1,400 feet of old 2" galvanized line with new poly line in Fairmount.

5) Waste Water Collection

- 1,400' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 217 utility locates completed, 4 lift station repairs completed, 4,800' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 68 manholes opened and inspected, 2 new sewer connections installed, 4 sanitary sewer services repaired

6) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 24 permits for an estimated cost of \$467,000, collected \$3,822 in permit fees. This included 4 residential remodeling, 2 commercial remodeling, 1 industrial remodeling, 3 residential plumbing, 2 new residential and 2 industrial HVAC, 3 residential electrical, 1 commercial electric, 2 industrial electrical, 3 sign, 2 grading permits, and 72 total inspections.

7) Recreation Department

- Youth Basketball – The Youth Basketball league concluded on Tuesday, February 3. A total of 153 league games were played January 3 through February 3 at the Recreation Center and Calhoun Middle School gyms.
- There will be 6 teams representing Calhoun in the GRPA 5th District basketball tournaments beginning February 20. Calhoun Recreation Department will host the 7-8 Girls District tournament February 20 through 24. We will also host the GRPA State Basketball tournaments for the 7-8 Boys and 7-8 Girls March 6-7, 2015.
- Youth Soccer – Registration for Spring Soccer began January 6 and concluded February 6, 2015. Assessments were held Saturday, February 7. Games will begin February 28.

- Youth Baseball/Softball – Registration began February 2.
- 2015 TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS:
- GRPA 5TH District Basketball Tournament – 7-8 Girls – February 20-24, 2015
- OPENING DAY – Spring Soccer – February 28, 2015
- OPENING DAY – Youth Baseball/Softball – April 13, 2015
- ASA National Qualifier – 16 & under - April 17-19, 2015
- ASA State Class A – 10 & under and 18 & under – July 10 – 12, 2015
- Website Usage – total visits 2,306

C. Councilman Crowley gave the January report as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 401 cases with 3 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$50,682
- Issued 560 warnings
- Investigated 55 highway accidents, 36 private property accidents
- Provided 71 escorts
- 1,477 incident reports
- Responded to 249 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 52,478
- Responded to 4,772 calls for service by E-911

2) **Municipal Court and Probation**

- Total Court cases- 300
- Court cases dropped- 68
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 190
- Number of Probation cases- 57
- Probation Payments- \$17,844
- Probation Revocations- 14
- Failure to appear- 50
- Prisoner transports- 31

3) **Fire Department- Suppression**

- Responded to 153 calls for service for the suppression division, 1 fire incidents for damages. (\$15,100 in estimated fire damage)
- Responded to 104 medical service calls
- Responded to 6 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 8 false alarms or false calls, 26 good intent

Training Division

- Department completed 863 hours of training.
- Training consisted of: required experienced and new driver/operator training, axioms of leadership, and pre-fire/incident planning class.

4) **Fire Inspection Department**

- 125 total reported activities/inspections which included 27 annual inspections, 4 new business inspections, 38 requested inspections, 17 follow-up or re-inspections, and 32 consultations.
- Inspectors conducted fire safety program for Library employees.
- Met with George Chambers Resource Center staff about a new addition.
- Met with City Building Officials about proposed loft apartments in downtown Calhoun.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the January report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Completed 19 shop and 11 street department work orders.
- Placed 6 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Attended GDOT approved flagging procedures class.
- Cut and removed a large tree that had fallen in the roadway at the old Harris Beamer Landfill.
- Continued work on the Animal Control Building Addition.
- Began storm drain work on East May Street in preparation for a new sidewalk.
- Councilman Hammond stated that pedestrian improvements are continuing on East May Street between Peters Street and Wall Street. Also, right of way acquisition is getting close to being finished on phase one of the Peters Street project. The project has a round-about to be installed at the intersection of May Street and Peters Street.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites.
- Sold 9 new grave spaces.
- Worked 12 grave sites.

3) Animal Control

- Housed 31 dogs and 6 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 3
- Number of cats adopted: 1
- Number of dogs rescued: 11
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 8
- Number of dogs euthanized: 1
- Number of cats euthanized: 3
- Number of warnings given: 20
- Number of bite cases: 1
- Citations issues: 3
- Number of inquiries: 68
- Animal control is working hard to be a low kill shelter and with the community's help we can greatly reduce the euthanization of animals. For more information you can find us on Facebook at City of Calhoun Animal Control for adoption and volunteer opportunities.

- Animal control is working with a newly formed nonprofit Pals for Paws, which will operate a thrift store to help raise money and collect donations to help pay pet vaccination, spay and neuter, and adoption fees to help increase the number of animals adopted. Also, we are currently working on an expansion of our kennel space.

4) Parks Department

- The Parks Department grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
- Mowed and weeded approximately 19 miles of sidewalk, 29 islands, and 42 other designated places in the City.
- The building and maintenance crew performed routine maintenance on designed city buildings and all fountains.
- Cleaned out storage buildings for the Library.

5) Safety Committee

- Safety topic- hearing protection
- Safety Inspection- Municipal Court and City Hall
- Vehicle Accidents: 1- Police Department
- Workers Compensation: 1- Police Department

6) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- Councilman Hammond discussed that the Regional Commission (RC) oversees 15 counties and 51 cities in Northwest Georgia that helps to reallocate federal dollars to various programs that benefit the citizens such as the Area on Aging, planning services for new business development, transportation planning, workforce training, and community planning.
- Mr. Hammond stated that the RC will have Lamar Norton, Executive Director of the Georgia Municipal Association, and Ross King, Executive Director of the Association of County Commissions of Georgia, at their next monthly meeting on February 19th. A likely topic will be House Bill 170 dealing with transportation. The State of Georgia is looking for ways to better fund needed transportation projects. However, HB170 could have a significant impact on local governments and public education.

7) Tom B. David Airport

- The airport is the 7th largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia. The airport has a 6,000 foot runway and is home to the Life Force helicopter. There will be a new taxiway built which will allow for more landings and more takeoffs.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

- A. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a variance request to allow removal of the existing single family home and rebuild a single family home in R-2 zoning by Kelly Cornwell at a location of 203 Barrett Road.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Attorney Govignon discussed the reasoning for the variance request. Mr. Govignon stated that it was the recommendation that the property go through the variance process versus subdividing and rezoning a small parcel in the middle of R-2 property. The existing nonconforming house has mold problems, so a new house is being proposed to be built behind the existing house. Once completed the old house will be torn down. Therefore, the variance will be a continuation of an existing nonconforming use for R-2 zoning.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards stated that the Zoning Advisory Board met on February 5th and voted to recommend the variance request be granted.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.
- There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

B. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a beer and wine package license request by Abuali Pirani DBA: San Marcos Market at a location of 90 East May Street.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.
- There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the beer and wine package license request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

8. **Old Business: None**

9. **New Business:**

- A. Mayor Palmer reviewed a Special Event road closure request for the annual Calhoun Chick-Fil-A Connect Race Series to include a 10K, 5K, and 1 mile race. Proceeds will benefit the Voluntary Action Center. Mayor Palmer called on City Clerk Paul Worley to discuss the event. Mr. Worley stated that he served on the Board of Directors for the Voluntary Action Center and on behalf of the Board they are excited that Chick-Fil-A has decided to designate the VAC again this year as the beneficiary of the fund raiser. The event will greatly help the organization continue their successful food outreach programs such as the meals served five days a week at their Community Kitchen. The proposed race would occur Saturday May 23, 2015 beginning at 8:00am. The one mile race will be hosted by the Calhoun Recreation Department on their walking trail. The 5K race begins at the Recreation Department and follows Recreation Drive, left on McDaniel Station Road, right on Hwy 53, right on Maplewood Drive, left onto Greenbriar Circle, continue on Forest Heights Drive, right on Hwy 53 spur, and ending at the Recreation Department. The 10K race runs the same 5K route and continues down Hwy 53 spur, left on McConnell Road, right

onto W. Line Street, right onto S. River Street, and turn right onto Recreation Drive. (subject to GDOT approval for state routes) Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the road closure request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- B. Mayor Palmer stated that the first and second quarter Fiscal Year 2015 financial statements were discussed at the work session.
 - Mr. Peterson presented the general fund report and asked for questions. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. (copy attached)
 - Mr. Vickery presented the utilities fund report and asked for questions. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. (copy attached)
- C. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer package request by Pankajkumar Patel DBA: Quick Stop at a location of 461 Harris Beamer Road. Councilman Edwards made a motion to set the public hearing for March 9, 2015. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer read a Resolution concerning House Bill 170 on transportation funding. Mayor Palmer stated that many local governments and boards of education were concerned with the financial impact HB 170 could have on local budgets. The impact of losing the sales tax on motor fuel in Gordon County is estimated at \$5.2 million per year. The Calhoun Board of Education has indicated that they wanted to participate in the Resolution. Councilman Hammond pointed out that the proposed bill would allow an additional local excise tax be put in place by local officials, but those dollars would not be eligible to be utilized by the schools for any reason such as paying off the current construction debt. Councilman Crowley stated that he is on GMA's Legislative Policy Council and there were proposed changes to the bill released today that allowed for Counties only to levy up to 6 cents excise tax per gallon and then distributed to cities based on the LMIG formula. There are concerns among many city officials that this will not be sufficient to replace the current sales tax revenues. For example, the Mayor of Columbus, Teresa Tomlinson, stated that she agreed that the General Assembly needs to find a solution to the transportation funding problem, but the policy makers are not talking about the possible negative effects on local governments of implementing HB 170. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the resolution as read. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. (copy attached)

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

A. City Administrator Peterson

- Mr. Peterson stated that the City will hold a Close-Out Public Hearing on a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant on February 25, 2015 at noon at the Calhoun Depot. The grant was used toward the renovation of the old O'Jay Mill Building to build 60 loft apartments and is currently housing 102 residents

of low to moderate income. Also, the original grant money will be paid back into the City's Revolving Loan fund which will enable the City to look at other housing options such as dilapidated housing improvements, partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, or starting a Land Bank. The existing Revolving Loan Fund for local businesses has been a very successful program and hopefully this addition will be a success for Calhoun's local housing needs. Attorney Govignon stated that GMA refers other City Attorneys to Calhoun's Revolving Loan Program as a model for how to run a successful program.

B. General Manager Vickery

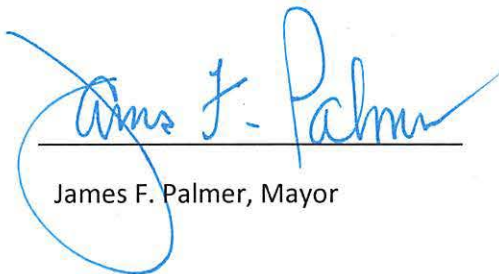
C. City Attorney Govignon

- Mr. Govignon stated that he is continuing to work on the MEAG substation deal on McDaniel Station Road. He stated he should have a resolution ready by the next meeting and there seems to be a good compromise struck to ensure the Recreation Department's access to flood way areas for possible trail expansions.

12. Councilman Hammond made a motion to adjourn the regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crowley with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:

Submitted:



James F. Palmer, Mayor



Paul Worley, City Clerk

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE STATE OF GEORGIA'S TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2015

WHEREAS, the Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding has issued a report which identifies the need for the State of Georgia to raise additional revenue to address transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 170 has now been introduced which recommends the state invest over \$1 billion annually in transportation related projects, with over \$500 million of the \$1 billion coming from local sales taxes from cities, counties and school systems; and

WHEREAS, from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 Gordon County collected \$5,181,806 in local option sales tax, SPLOST, and ESPLOST from the sale motor fuel; and

WHEREAS, from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 the Calhoun City School System received \$579,653 from the one percent ESPLOST from the sale of motor fuel; and

WHEREAS, the City of Calhoun currently has \$32 million dollars in outstanding school bonds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Calhoun school bond debt will require an additional passage of ESPLOST to service the current bond debt; and

WHEREAS, from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 the City of Calhoun collected \$4,110,882 in LOST and SPLOST taxes; and

WHEREAS, from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 the City of Calhoun received \$853,008 from the one percent LOST and SPLOST motor fuel tax; and

WHEREAS, from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 the City of Calhoun spent \$2,868,564 directly related to transportation; and

WHEREAS, this Council and School Board urges the members of the Georgia General Assembly and our local delegation to strongly oppose any provision or measure to reduce allocation of sales tax funding to local governments;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of Calhoun, Georgia and the City of Calhoun Board of Education hereby urges the Georgia General Assembly and our local delegation to strongly oppose any bill, provision or measure to re-allocate local option sales tax funding from local governments to the state of Georgia. Furthermore that the state of Georgia not approve any provision of a transportation bill that authorizes double taxation of municipal residents.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of Calhoun, Georgia, held on the 9th day of February, 2015, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of four members of the Mayor and Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the City of Calhoun Board of Education, held on the 17th day of February, 2015, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of five members of the Calhoun Board of Education.



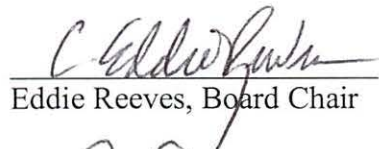
Mayor James F. Palmer



Mayor Pro Tem Al Edwards



Councilman George Crowley



Eddie Reeves, Board Chair



Tony Swink, Board Secretary



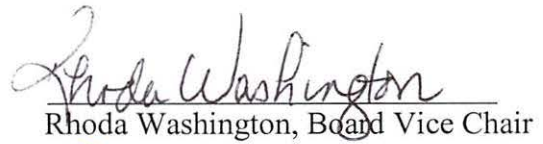
Alvin Long, Board Member



Councilman Matt Barton



Councilman David Hammond

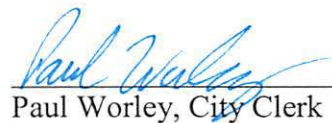


Rhoda Washington, Board Vice Chair



David Scoggins, Board Member

ATTEST:



Paul Worley, City Clerk