



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 8, 2024 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ed Moyer, Mayor Pro Tem
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilmember
Al Edwards, Councilmember

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; Tony Pyle, Police Chief; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Erik Henson, Director of Water and Wastewater.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**

Welcome

Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Invocation

Mayor Palmer gave the invocation.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

3. **Amendment or Approval of Proposed Agenda**

Mayor Palmer stated that a motion was needed to add two additional items to the agenda: Item H, an agreement with CRBI to resolve litigation presently pending; and, Item I, a professional services agreement for insulin litigation. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of June 17, 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. Mayor's Comments

6. Council Comments

A. Mayor Palmer submitted June reports as follows:

1) Electric Department

Current Electrical Department Engineering and Construction:

- The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.
- Electrical Engineering continues for the new townhomes on Newtown Rd, New townhomes on Professional Ct and Salacoa Subdivision on Lover's Ln.
- Construction continues on the 53 Townhomes at Old Mill, Home to Suites Hotel on Lovers Lane, The new overhead line extension on Marine Dr, The City of Calhoun building and planning building. The Electric Dept is continuing system upgrades necessary for the new growth and increased reliability.
- Construction also continues for the Exchange Apartments, Manor Lake Cottages of Calhoun on Curtis Parkway, and the new GBI building on McDaniel Station Rd.

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:

• NEWLY CREATED	76
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	67
•	
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	41
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	7
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	7
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	2
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	5
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	14
• NEW METER SETS	16
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	8
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	266

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for June 2024 is about 34 million kilowatt hours (kWh's).

2) Telecommunications

- Finished construction and connected a new internet circuit.
- Disconnected two internet customers.
- Fixed two underground fiber drop cuts.
- Purchased and installed new security camera recorder and cameras for Water Construction Department.

- Installed 8 CAT5 drops for Customer Service card reader.
- Opened 13 and closed 16 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Updated map data for Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory project.
- Generated Electric Usage Reports
- Updated data and mapping for the following:
 - Water system and meter updates
 - Fiber
 - Zoning
- Updated Physical addressing, building and billing information.
- Updated City and GIS web sites.

3) **Building Inspections**

Issued 275 permits for an estimated cost of \$7,379,037, collected \$65,702 in permit fees. This included 52 new residential, 2 residential remodel, 2 new commercial, 4 commercial remodel, 49 residential plumbing, 67 residential electrical, 22 residential HVAC, 3 commercial plumbing, 3 commercial electrical, 5 commercial HVAC, and 2 industrial electrical. 612 total inspections.

4) **Library**

- There are 12,261 library card holders, 7,400 library visitors, and 9,459 total circulation.
- There were 274 story time attendance, 35 adult program attendance, 155 new users, 1,343 e-books, 1,668 audio books, 483 computer logins, and 7,771 Facebook visits.

B. Councilmember Edwards submitted June reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 366,560,000
- Daily average: 12,218,666
- Wells: 131,770,000
- Big Springs: 27,740,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 43.5%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: %
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: %
 - Rainfall for June – 1.61”

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 5.218 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 3, average suspended effluent of 12, and an average COD of 72.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 208 work orders completed, 32 new water connections, 32 water service leaks repaired, 14 water main leaks repaired, 0 water services changed to new main lines, 33 meter changes, 44 utility locates called in for work orders, 761 utility locates responses.
- 700 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 587 utility locates completed, 17,400 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 2 new sewer connections installed, 2 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

Projects Under Construction

- Service Line Inventory – As mandated by the EPA, every water system in the USA has to identify and develop a service line inventory of all services found within their water distribution system. This project is now underway and city crews are identifying water services throughout the distribution system. Project completion percentage approximately 98%.
- Water & Sewer Plant Maintenance Department Building – This project consists of constructing a 4,800 sq ft pre-engineered steel building in-between the sewer construction department and the wastewater treatment plant. The majority of the material for this project is scheduled for delivery during the second week of July. Once the material has been received, construction will begin.
- Northwest Booster Station Header Modification Project – This project consists of upgrading the electrical components and repairing piping configurations within the booster station to eliminate premature pump failure. Material for this project has been delivered.

Projects in Design & Development

- New Fire Tower Water Tank Project
- Water Treatment Plant Modifications
- Brittany Dr & Water Booster Stations Standby Generator Project
- Peters St. Phase III Water Relocation
- Curtis Pkwy Water & Sewer Relocation
- Redbud & Hwy 41 Intersection Water & Sewer Relocation
- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project
- Yancey Lift Station Rehabilitation Project
- Engineering Department is Actively Working on Approximately 35 Plan Reviews & Inspections for Developments.

3) **Zoning Advisory Board**

Councilmember Edwards noted that the Zoning Advisory Board did not meet in May due to a lack of quorum.

C. Councilmember Denmon submitted June reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

1. Completed 25 shop and 29 street dept. work orders.
2. Installed 5 new street signs.
3. Repaired utility cuts and potholes around town using 6 tons of asphalt.
4. Cut and removed a tree on Pisgah Way.

Cemetery

1. Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
2. Supervised the opening and closing of 7 grave sites.
3. Sold 33 new grave spaces.

Parks Department

1. The grounds crew picked up litter, mowed, trimmed bushes, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
2. The maintenance crew maintained designated buildings downtown.
3. Cleaned and treated the water fountains downtown.

Animal Control

- Housed 12 dogs and 24 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 2
- Number of cats adopted: 2
- Number of dogs rescued: 2
- Number of cats rescued: 18
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 24
- Number of bite cases: 1
- Citations issues: 0

2) Recreation Department

PROGRAMS:

Camp South River – Camp was held four weeks during the month of June. 160 participants have attended camp participating in outdoor activities throughout the park, attending field trips, swimming, and arts and crafts throughout the week.

Tennis – The following leagues were held throughout the month – Tennis 101; Quads, Flex league and MAP tennis

Adult Softball – The adult softball league began June 18. Games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sixteen games were played during the month.

Fall Programs: Registration for all fall programs begins Monday, July 8. Fall programs include – Football, Cheer, Volleyball, Soccer and Cross Country

TOURNAMENTS:

GRPA District Baseball and Softball – We had 6 teams that participated in the GRPA district tournaments held June 8 – 13, 2024. Our agency hosted the 9-10 Girls Fast Pitch and 9-10 Boys Pitching machine tournaments. The 7-8 Girls advanced to the GRPA State tournament held June 25-28 and finished State runner-up. The 9-10 Boys pitching machine also advanced to the GRPA State tournament.

POOL – The pool has been open to the public throughout the month Monday through Saturday 1:00pm – 5:00pm. The week of June 24 hours were extended to 1:00pm – 8:00pm Monday through Thursday and 1:00pm – 5:00pm Friday and Saturday. There were 19 pool parties during the month. The Blue Barracudas had 4 home swim meets.

FACILITY USAGE:

Billy Bearden Recreation Center	Black and Yellow Pavilion – 8 events
Meeting Room – 6 events	Ratner Pavilion – 6 events
Community Room – 8 events	Gym – 1 event

SOCIAL MEDIA:

CalhounRec.com	Facebook
Page Views – 4,524	Reached – 13, 720
Users – 2,063	Post Engagements – 3,350
Posts – 16	New Followers – 51
	Posts – 18

PARK MAINTENANCE:

The following was completed:

- 1 – Daily park clean-up
- 2 – Mowed all parks – weekly
- 3 – Groomed all parks – weekly
- 4 – Pressure washed Ratner Pavilion and bathrooms
- 5 – Groomed Dog Park – weekly
- 6 – Baseball/softball field maintenance – weekly
- 7 – Groomed all common areas- weekly
- 8 – Pool Maintenance – daily
- 9 – Soccer Complex – began field maintenance

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

Summer in the City Block Party:

The event is in full swing! The first block party on June 28th was a big success, with Dasher the Band from North Carolina headlining. Jamwich, a food truck from Rome, joined us in addition to Duke’s from Calhoun. Our six cornhole boards were a huge hit, staying busy the entire evening. From the number of

fans and other merchandise handed out, we estimate anywhere from 200-250 people were in attendance. We're very pleased with the broad age range of visitors.

For July 26th, we'll host White Water Junction and the Jet Black Roses (both from Calhoun). I'm still working to nail down 2-3 food trucks for this date (if you can recommend anyone, please let us know). We're adding a couple more yard games in addition to cornhole. This addition really helped with our "block party" vibe, encouraging people to hang out downtown longer. We also have a Kids Zone sponsor and will add something for children.

For August 23rd, we have booked Java Monkey from Atlanta. Right now, we have a taco truck scheduled from Cartersville and would like to add 2 more food trucks.

Our sponsors include Baxter Dean, the Community Foundation, Ryan Homes and the Chamber of Commerce. One more additional sponsor would be helpful but I have had trouble getting companies interested. My hope is, with the success of the events, we can build sponsor support for next year.

Downtown Calhoun Farmer's Market:

Our market is growing! Tuesday, July 2nd, Ricney Farms joined us which grew our produce vendor list to 3 farmers total. Our other vendors include eggs, honey, baked goods, lemonade, flowers, beef, chicken, a coffee cart and several hand crafts. Ricney Farms was pleasantly surprised with the amount of foot traffic, especially the week of the 4th. After encouraging them to give the new market a try, they said they will absolutely be back.

We're proud of the community space we are building with the market at City Park. The library is joining us on July 23rd for Kids Day where we will host Noni's Nook story hour and have other market-themed activities planned for kids up to 8 years old. We've also asked the Harris Arts Center to join us. And our marketing will encourage parents to make it a day in Downtown Calhoun with a movie at the GEM Theater that afternoon.

Board Meetings:

The DDA and HPC held a joint board meeting on June 20th. We approved signage for a new business, a special event permit for United Way and discussed budgetary issues. The HPC is continuing to work on the solar box project which highlights historical information about buildings and locations downtown. Locations for the physical boxes still need to be identified, as well as how the project will be funded.

Social Media:

We've seen quite a bump in traffic since the beginning of June. With all of the new eyes, we want to build on that momentum as much as possible

promoting our events and featuring introductions to new and old downtown merchants. Please see the graphic attached.

Downtown Properties:

116 Court Street is currently for sale. The tenants are feeling a little uneasy about the future and the possible rise of rental rates, but with the list of interested buyers so far, I think we have a good chance of avoiding turnover.

Fall event:

We have a A LOT of community interest in a fall/Halloween event. Sierra and I have many great ideas for a downtown mini-festival fall festival. However, with the problems getting sponsorships for the summer series, we don't yet know if we can get it off the ground. Hi-Gain Audio offered to donate their audio/stage services as an in-kind sponsorship, which is extremely helpful. We are still working to see if we can get the sponsorship monies we need to pull it off.

D. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer submitted June reports as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 398 cases with 3 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$45,846.00
- Issued 674 warnings
- Investigated 57 highway accidents, 35 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 4
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 0
- Alarm responses - 138
- Miles patrolled: 38,426

2) Municipal Court

- Citations from Police Department-398
- Court cases docketed- 167
- Probation cases assigned- 13
- Probation revocations- 1
- Bench warrants-5
- Failure to appear-18

3) Fire Department

Fire Suppression Division

226 Total Reported Calls for Service for the Suppression Division

<i>Type of Dispatched Calls</i>	Number of Dispatched Calls
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------

<i>Structure Fires</i>	2
<i>Mobile Property Fire (Vehicle)</i>	0
<i>Natural Vegetation</i>	2
<i>Outside Rubbish Fire</i>	2
<i>Special Outside Fires</i>	0
<i>Total Fire Calls</i>	6

<i>Rescue Emergency Medical Call</i>	128
<i>Medical Assist</i>	20
<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	0
<i>Search for Lost Person</i>	0
<i>Extrication / Rescue</i>	1
<i>EMS Standby</i>	0
<i>Total Medical Calls</i>	149

<i>Flammable Gas or Liquid Condition Other</i>	0
<i>Combustible/Flammable Spills & Leaks</i>	0
<i>Chemical Release, Reaction, or Toxic Condition</i>	1
<i>Electrical Wiring / Equipment Problem</i>	1
<i>Total Hazardous Conditions Incidents (No Fire)</i>	2

<i>Animal Problem of Rescue</i>	1
<i>Unauthorized Burning</i>	0
<i>Person in Distress</i>	1
<i>Public Assistance</i>	1
<i>Total Service Calls</i>	3

<i>Dispatched and Canceled En-Route</i>	37
<i>Good Intent Call</i>	0
<i>Hazmat Release Investigation</i>	0
<i>No Incident Found at Dispatch Location</i>	11
<i>Smoke Scare Odor of Smoke</i>	0
<i>Steam Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke</i>	0
<i>CO Alarm Activation</i>	0
<i>System or Detector Malfunction</i>	6
<i>Unintentional System / Detector Operation (No Fire)</i>	8
<i>False Alarm or False Calls Other</i>	4
<i>Total False Alarms or False Calls</i>	66

<i>Flood Assessment</i>	0
<i>Wind Storm Assessment</i>	0
<i>Severe Weather and Natural Disaster Calls</i>	0

Monthly Fire Suppression Activities and Accomplishments

- Average Total Response Times for Department:

Turn Out – 1:53
Travel – 3:39
Total Response Time – 5:32

A Shift
Turn Out – 1:56
Travel – 3:57
Total Response Time – 5:53

B Shift
Turn Out – 2:07
Travel – 3:08
Total Response Time – 5:15

C Shift
Turn Out – 1:40
Travel – 2:45

Total Response Time – 5:25

- Basic EMT class finished with students now taking National Registry Tests.
-

Fire Inspection – Public Safety Education – Code Enforcement Division

Inspections and Enforcement Activities

<i>Annual Inspections</i>	53
<i>New Business Inspections</i>	2
<i>Requested Inspections</i>	17
<i>Follow Up, Re-Inspections</i>	4
<i>Burn Site Inspections</i>	0
<i>Plan Review</i>	2
<i>Pre-Construction Meeting</i>	0
<i>Sprinkler Permits Issued</i>	0
<i>Fuel Tank Permit (Install, Removal, or Service)</i>	0
<i>Consultations</i>	14
<i>Illegal Burning Citations</i>	0
<i>Fire Extinguisher Classes</i>	0
<i>Fire Drills</i>	0
<i>Fire Prevention Programs</i>	1
<i>Zoning / Annexation Meetings</i>	0
<i>Total Inspection – Public Safety Education – Code Enforcement Activities</i>	93

Monthly Fire Inspections – Public Safety Education – Code Enforcement Division Activities and Accomplishments

- Conducted Fire Prevention Program for 65 children from NW Ga Christian Academy.

- T. Duvall Assisted with State sponsored Introduction to Fire Inspections class taught here by N. Saylor.
- Duvall attended Fire Safety Symposium at Ga Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth Sponsored by Ga Fire Academy and the State Fire Marshals Office.

Training and Special Operations Division

Monthly Training Hours

<i>Company Training</i>	933.00
<i>Facility Training</i>	84.00
<i>Officer Training</i>	0.00
<i>Driver Training</i>	0.00
<i>Specialized Rescue Training</i>	0.00
<i>Hazardous Materials Training</i>	0.00
<i>Medical Training</i>	288.00
<i>Fire Inspector Training</i>	20.00
<i>Fire Investigation Training</i>	80.00
<i>Fire and Life Safety Educator Training</i>	0.00
Total Monthly Training Hours	1405.00

2024 Annual Training Hours

<i>Company Training</i>	4704.50
<i>Facility Training</i>	1086.00
<i>Officer Training</i>	641.00
<i>Driver Training</i>	1113.00
<i>Specialized Rescue Training</i>	598.00
<i>Hazardous Materials Training</i>	231.00
<i>Medical Training</i>	1248.00
<i>Fire Inspector Training</i>	26.00

<i>Fire Investigation Training</i>	152.00
<i>Fire and Life Safety Educator Training</i>	0.00
<i>Total 2023 Annual Training Hours</i>	9799.50

4) **Safety Committee**

- The safety topic of discussion this month was Workplace Safety. Safety inspections were performed at the library and all Utilities buildings.
 - Vehicle accidents: 0
 - Workers' compensation: 0

7. **Zoning Hearings and Comments**

8. **Other Hearings and Comments**

A. Public hearing of ordinance changes to Chapter 94 – Utilities; Article IV. – Sewers and Sewage Disposal; for regulations pertaining to public and private wastewater lift stations.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Jeff Haymore, 1776 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA stated that he was representing a property on Millers Ferry Road owned by his client, Mr. Darin Hardin. He noted that his client was exploring the feasibility of a housing community in the area and sewer is not immediately available in immediate proximity. He reviewed the proposed ordinance offering input on changes that the developer felt would be advantageous for the city. He asked councilmembers to table the item in order to allow for a meeting with city staff and the city attorney. Mayor Palmer stated that the property Mr. Hardin owns has gravity sewer available and shouldn't need a lift station. He also noted that the city has been trying for approximately eight months to get something in place pertaining to lift stations, and has had a moratorium in place while working on the ordinance.
- Mr. Darin Hardin, 230 Old Hwy 41 NW, stated that he was in agreement with gravity flow sewer and uses it anytime he can make it work. He stated that he had been a developer for 26 years and looks for areas that expand city services. He felt the requirement of being within one mile of the city was not advantageous. He stated again that he would always do his best to use gravity flow, but sometimes extensive circumstances prohibit it. Mayor Palmer stated that the city has the availability to tweak ordinances as necessary.
- There being no other comments, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning Ordinance Change. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to

the case. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- I. Mayor Palmer stated that a motion was needed concerning a professional services agreement for insulin litigation. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the agreement. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

11. **Other Written Items Not on the Agenda**

12. **Work Reports**

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator had nothing to report.
- B. Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator had nothing to report.

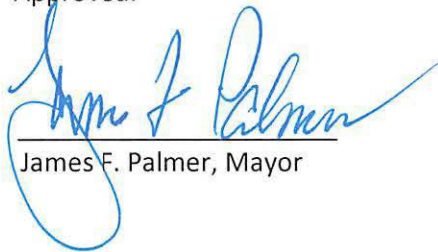
13. **Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed**

14. **Motion to return to General Session**

15. **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Council, Councilmember Denmon made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

