



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 9, 2022 - 7:00 PM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

**MINUTES**

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor  
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilman  
Al Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ed Moyer, Councilman  
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilwoman

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Assistant Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief, Brett Sane, Assistant Director of Electric and, Jose Ulibarri, Police Department.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**  
**Welcome**  
Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.  
**Invocation**  
Utilities Administrator Vickery 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 Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the May 9, 2022 agenda as presented. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**  
Councilman Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of April 25, 2022. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer announced that the first public hearing of the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 Annual Operating Budget and Capital Plan will be held tonight and the second public hearing on June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

6. **Council Comments**

- A. Councilwoman Palazzolo submitted April reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

**Water Treatment Plant**

- Total gallons withdrawn: 309,110,000
- Daily average: 10,303,667
- Wells: 109,640,000
- Big Springs: 6,840,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 37.7%
  - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 32.90%
  - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 40.13%
  - Rainfall for November – 2.07"

**Waste Water Treatment Plant**

- Treated a daily average of 7.256 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 12, and an average COD of 49.

**Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection**

- 121 work orders completed, 24 new water connections, 21 water service leaks repaired, 8 water main leaks repaired, 10 water services changed to new main lines, 45 meter changes, 45 utility locates called in for work orders, 590 utility locates responses.
- 2,655 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 494 utility locates completed, 4,750 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 14 new sewer connections installed, 2 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

- 319 Grant Lynn Creek Project- Agricultural project scheduled for spring/summer 2022.
- Fox Subdivision 2" galvanized water line replacement project 286. City crews currently installing new mains
- Eastside sewer replacement project- Project is under construction. Crews are working on repairing and rehabilitating manholes. Project approximately 95% complete. Cleanup of yards has begun and will continue until all properties are restored.

**Projects in Design & Development**

**South Interceptor Flow Study**

- Project Stream Sewer Extension
- McCraney Sewer Line Extension

3) **Library**

- There are 10,465 library card holders, 2,895 library visitors, and 4,121 total circulation.
- There were 137 story time attendance, 9 adult program attendance, 74 new users, 798 e-books, 841 audio books, 440 computer logins, and 13,316 Facebook visits.

B. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards submitted April reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 348 cases with 4 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$47,303
- Issued 363 warnings
- Investigated 59 highway accidents, 33 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 4
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 6
- Alarm responses - 120
- Miles patrolled: 42,498

2) **Municipal Court**

- Total Court cases- 348
- Court cases dropped- 44
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 253
- Number of Probation cases- 11
- Failure to appear- 35
- Subpoenas served- 2

3) **Fire Department**

### April 2022 Activities Report

| Fire Suppression Division |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>189</b>                | <b>Total reported calls for service for the Suppression Division</b> |
| Number of Calls           | Dispatched Calls   |
| 0                         | Fire, Other  |
| 3                         | Structure Fire   |
| 1                         | Mobile Property (Vehicle) Fire                                       |
| 1                         | Natural Vegetation Fire  |
| 3                         | Outside Rubbish Fire   |
| 1                         | Overpressure, Rupture, Overheat, Explosion or other                  |
| <b>9</b>                  | <b>Total Fire Calls</b>  |
| 0                         | Rescue Emergency Medical call (Other)                                |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 48  | Medical Assist  |
| 74  | Emergency Medical Services Incident   |
| 0   | Lock-In   |
| 1   | Search for Lost Person  |
| 1   | Water or ice related rescue   |
| 0   | Extrication   |
| 1   | Rescue or EMS Standby   |
| <b>125</b>                                    | <b>Total Medical Calls</b>  |
| 0   | Flammable Gas or Liquid Condition / other   |
| 2   | Combustible / Flammable Liquids Spills and Leaks  |
| 1   | Chemical Release, Reaction or Toxic Condition   |
| 4   | Electrical Wiring / Equipment problems  |
| <b>7</b>                                      | <b>Total Hazardous Conditions Incidents (NO FIRE: Leaks, Spills, Electrical Hazards; All Other Hazardous Conditions without injuries)</b> |
| 1   | Potential Accident  |
| 2   | Service Call other  |
| 0   | Water Problem   |
| 0   | Smoke / Odor Problem  |
| 2   | Public Service Assistance   |
| 1   | Person in Distress  |
| 0   | Good Intent call  |
| 1   | Good Intent Call - Other  |
| <b>7</b>                                      | <b>Total Service / Good Intent Calls (Non-Emergency; Water Leak; Assist Other Agencies; Odors)</b>  |
| 20  | Dispatched and Canceled En-Route  |
| 8   | Wrong location / No Emergency Found   |
| 0   | Controlled Burning  |
| 0   | Steam or gas mistaken for smoke   |
| 0   | Haz Mat Release investigation w/ no Haz Mat found   |
| 2   | False Alarm and False Call Other  |
| 0   | Bomb Scare (Nothing Found)  |
| 0   | Malicious Mischievous false alarm   |
| 4   | System or Detector Malfunction  |
| 7   | Unintentional System / Detector Operation (No Fire)   |
| <b>41</b>                                     | <b>Total False Alarms or False Calls</b>  |
| 0   | Severe Weather & Natural Disaster   |
| <b>0</b>                                      | <b>Total Severe Weather &amp; Natural Disaster Calls</b>  |
| 1   |   |
| 0   | Special Incident Type (Citizen Complaint; Other)  |
| <b>0</b>                                      | <b>Total Special Incident Type</b>  |
| <b>Additional Fire Department Activities:</b> |   |

Serviced Fire Hydrants in the City

Completed routine Dept. Maintenance and station duties.

Participated in meetings on COVID-19 and Community issues with local agencies (by video conference).

Participated at the Touch a Truck event at the Recreation Department.

### Training Division

**618 Total Man Hours of training during the month**

#### Training consisted of:

Training consisted of Company Officer Training, Ladders, Fire Scene Management, Streets and Maps study of the local area.

### Fire Inspections - Public Safety Education - Code Enforcement Division

**134 Total Reported Activities / Inspections completed during the month**

#### Inspections / Enforcement Activities

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 42         | Annual Inspection                              |
| 2          | New Business Inspections                       |
| 26         | Requested Inspections                          |
| 28         | Follow Up, Re-Inspections                      |
| 0          | Burn Site Inspections                          |
| 3          | Plan Reviews                                   |
| 1          | Pre-Construction Meeting                       |
| 0          | Sprinkler Permits Issued                       |
| 0          | Fuel Tank Permit (Install, Removal or Service) |
| 28         | Consultations                                  |
| 0          | Illegal Burning Citations                      |
| 2          | Fire Extinguisher Classes                      |
| 0          | Fire Drills                                    |
| 0          | Fire Prevention Programs                       |
| 2          | Zoning / Annexation Meetings                   |
| <b>134</b> | <b>Total</b>                                   |

#### Additional Inspection - Public Safety & Codes Division Activities

Duvall participated with City Safety Inspection

Assisted with the investigations by the State Fire Marshal's Office at Calhoun Nursing Home

Conducted Fire Extinguisher classes and Fire and Safety evacuation drills for Henkel Industries and at Bostk locations.

Put 5 New Fire Hydrants in Service

4) **Safety Committee**

- The safety topic of discussion this month was Winter Driving. No safety inspections were performed in December.
- Vehicle accidents: 1
- Workers' compensation: 0

C. Councilman Denmon submitted April reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

**Street Department**

- Completed 28 shop and 29 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 4 new street signs.
- Worked the BBQ festival downtown blocking streets, controlling traffic and removing trash.
- Repaired utility cuts and pot holes using approximately 12 tons of asphalt.

**Cemetery Department**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites.
- Sold 25 new grave spaces.

**Parks Department**

- The grounds crew picked up litter, mowed, trimmed bushes, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
- The maintenance crew maintained designated buildings downtown.
- Repaired storm doors at the recycling center and the street department.

**Animal Control**

- Housed 24 dogs and 2 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 3
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 7
- Number of cats rescued: 1
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 8
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 1
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 17
- Number of bite cases: 1
- Citations issued: 2

2) **Recreation Department**

1. **PROGRAMS**

Youth Soccer - Spring soccer played 91 games through the month of April. Games will continue through mid- May.

Youth Baseball and Softball – The spring games began on April 8 with 69 games played during the month. Games will continue through the end of May.

Adult Softball – The Men’s adult league began on April 18 with 8 teams participating. A total of 12 games were played during April.

Camp South River – Summer Camp – registration has begun for Camp South River which will be held 7 weeks throughout the summer. The first week of camp will be June 6-10, 2022.

Blue Barracudas – Summer Swim team registration has started and the barracudas will start practice the end of May.

Tennis – The STA Tournament was held April 16-29 with 100 plus participants. Hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> round of state. CMS tennis region was held April 12. Regular league play was held throughout the month.

2. **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

April 23 – Touch A Truck event had great participation, several hundred families came out to enjoy. Trucks/equipment were on display from Calhoun Fire Dept., Calhoun Police Dept., Calhoun Electric Dept., Calhoun Street Dept., Gordon Co Sheriff Dept., Gordon Co Fire Dept., Yan Mar, Gordon Co. Towing, Hough Racing

Power-wheels Derby- There were 33 participants that came out to race their power-wheels. This was new event that we will start holding annually.

Movie Night – the day was ended with the movie Cars. Families came out and enjoyed the movie and the food vendors that were on site.

3. **Facility Usage** – The Recreation Center has been opened back up for rentals.

Ratner Pavilion – 4 rentals  
Gym – 20 rentals

Playground Pavilion – 7 rentals

4. **Grounds Maintenance** –

The following tasks were completed during the month:

Repainted all soccer fields

Daily field maintenance and game set up for baseball/softball games  
repainted high school soccer field

groom tennis center weekly  
repaint Bernstein park  
cut tress that fell along walking trail  
Mowed and maintained all green space; ball fields; entrances  
groomed dog park weekly  
set up and painted football field for North Ga Cardinals Football games  
Pool maintenance preparing to open for the season

**5. STAFF CONTINUING EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

Leadership Calhoun – Gordon Co – Hailey Amick attended session throughout the month.  
GRPA Leadership I – Laura Carter attended GRPA Leadership I at Rock Eagle April 25-27  
AFO Course – Whitey Davis completed the Aquatics Facility Operator course March 25-26.  
BBQ Boogie and Blues – 3 staff members worked vendor check-in on 4/29; 12 staff members worked the People’s Choice Competition 4/30.

**6 – WEBSITE USAGE:**

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| CalhounRec.com     | Facebook                 |
| Page Views – 4,907 | Post Engagements – 4,023 |
| Users – 2,279      | Reached – 25,629         |
| Posts – 16         | Posts - 14               |
|                    | New Page followers - 82  |

**Upcoming Events:**

May 14 – USA Softball – Girls Fast Pitch Tournament  
May 21 – PGF Softball – Girls Fast Pitch Tournament  
May 29-30 – PGF Softball – Girls Fast Pitch Tournament

**3) Downtown Development Authority**

The DDA and HPC held their regular scheduled meetings. The 10<sup>th</sup> annual BBQ, Boogie & Blues was a success with it being the largest one to date. The DDA partnered with the Harris Arts Center to have concerts in the park on June 24<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bands will be announced soon. The food truck and World Series trophy event will be at the Depot on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-8. The DDA partnered with the library to install a tree in the library park. The DDA partnered with the Keep Calhoun Gordon County Beautiful to install new plants in the planters.

**Downtown Visits:**

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 3/21/2022 | Payne’s Coast to Coast          |
| 3/22/2022 | Cool’s Car Cash                 |
| 3/22/2022 | Thurston’s                      |
| 3/28/2022 | Perrie & Associates             |
| 3/29/2022 | Calhoun/GC Library              |
| 3/30/2022 | Harris Arts Center              |
| 3/31/2022 | Courthouse Annex Ribbon Cutting |

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 4/6/2022  | Mother Nature's Eden                  |
| 4/7/2022  | Front Row Boutique                    |
| 4/7/2022  | Early Learning Academy Ribbon Cutting |
| 12-Apr    | When I Was A Child Antiques           |
| 4/14/2022 | Trackside Pizza                       |
| 4/21/2022 | Gift of Seasons                       |
| 4/28-4/30 | BBQ, Boogie & Blues                   |

D. Councilman Moyer submitted April reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.
- Electrical Engineering continues for the Exchange Apartments and the Cottages of Calhoun on Curtis Parkway, the 40 Townhomes at Old Mill and the Hamilton Medical Complex.
- Bad pole removal continues as other utilities transfer to the new poles.
- Pole inspection is complete and rejected poles are being replaced.

**WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED FOR APRIL:**

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| • NEWLY CREATED                       | 53  |
| • COMPLETED AND CLOSED                | 48  |
| • CONSISTING OF:                      |     |
| • CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION                | 32  |
| • DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE            | 2   |
| • OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS             | 7   |
| • SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE | 2   |
| • TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP             | 2   |
| • WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS          | 8   |
| • NEW METER SETS                      | 4   |
| • METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT       | 19  |
| • ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED   | 276 |

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for April 2022 is estimated to be about 31 million kilowatt hours (kWh's). This is about the same as April of 2021. Actual numbers will be released around May 18<sup>th</sup>.

In April the Educational Solar Array, a partnership between Calhoun Utilities, Calhoun City Schools and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), produced 7,310 kWh's of electricity and provided a carbon offset of 11,100 pounds or the equivalent carbon sequestration of 130 trees.

# Monthly Energy Production Report

Generated for Jeff DeFoor  
on 05/04/2022

Calhoun Utilities  
Calhoun, GA



This report provides energy production for April.

| Week                         | Peak Power | Energy Produced |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 04/01/2022 - 04/07/2022      | 39.1 kW    | 1.67 MWh        |
| 04/08/2022 - 04/14/2022      | 39.1 kW    | 1.42 MWh        |
| 04/15/2022 - 04/21/2022      | 39.1 kW    | 1.70 MWh        |
| 04/22/2022 - 04/28/2022      | 39.1 kW    | 2.03 MWh        |
| 04/29/2022 - 04/30/2022      | 39.1 kW    | 495 kWh         |
| <b>April 2022 Total:</b>     |            | <b>7.31 MWh</b> |
| <b>Previous Month Total:</b> |            | <b>7.26 MWh</b> |
| <b>Year to Date:</b>         |            | <b>25.1 MWh</b> |
| <b>Lifetime Production:</b>  |            | <b>77.8 MWh</b> |

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 11,100.000000000002 lbs

You have offset the equivalent of: 130 Trees



## **The City of Calhoun Receives National Recognition as one of the most reliable Electric Systems in the country:**

The American Public Power Association (APPA), which represents more than 2,000 not for profit, community owned electric utilities, recognized the City of Calhoun with the 2021 Award for Exceptional Electric Reliability. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects operational data from all electric utilities across the country and APPA compares Public Power utilities with the data to determine the Excellence in Reliability Award.

The award is judged by outage time and is measured using the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI); which is defined as the average interruption duration, in minutes per year for all customers served. Nationwide the average for all utilities is 136 minutes, the City of Calhoun's customers averaged only 36.5 minutes per year.

If there is ever a team award for Electric Utilities it would be the Excellence in Reliability award, here are a few that make it possible:

- (1). The Mayor and Council's support for our training programs and equipment.**
- (2). Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG) and American Public Power Association (APPA) that keep us current on the best practices for a rapidly changing profession.**
- (3). Everyone at the Electrical Department, from Purchasing to Engineering and especially the ones that promptly answer the calls, day or night and in extreme weather: our Linemen, Apprentices and Technicians.**

The Electric Department's is especially thankful of this award because it is presented by our peers, who have a common purpose and commitment to minimal disruption and maintain the quality of life for their communities.



# CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN RELIABILITY

*This is to acknowledge that*

**City of Calhoun**

*has significantly exceeded the average for all U.S. electric utilities\* for reliable electric service. The utility participates in the American Public Power Association's e-Reliability Tracker service to track its power outages and restoration against national benchmarks.*

\*As reported by the Energy Information Administration

MARCH 31, 2022

Alex Hofmann  
Vice President, Technical and Operations Services

## AVERAGE #OUTAGE TIME



All U.S.  
electric  
utilities\*

City of Calhoun

#PublicPower  
=  
Reliable  
Power

\* When there are **NO** IEEE major event days

### 2) Telecommunications

#### Telecommunications

- Connected one new internet customer and disconnected one.
- Started fiber construction to three new customer locations and started provisioning for new point-to-point circuit.
- Completed phone system software upgrade.

- Went live with new billing software version upgrade the first weekend in April. Project completed.
- Installed three new computers.
- Re-reviewed cybersecurity report and turned in suggestions for alterations. Should have report ready for leadership by end of May.
- Opened 10 and closed 14 work orders.

#### **Geographic Information Systems**

- Added 2022 zoning map updates.
- Updated water system and water meter data and mapping.
- Generated Electric usage reports.
- Updated Fiber maps.
- Updated Fire pre-plan for buildings
- Updated Physical addressing, building and billing information.
- Updated City and GIS web sites

#### **3) Building Inspections**

- Issued 79 permits for an estimated cost of \$2,709,655, collected \$23,708 in permit fees. This included 2 new residential, 3 residential remodel, 3 new commercial, 1 commercial remodel, 1 new industrial, 0 industrial remodel, 7 residential plumbing, 20 residential electrical, 3 commercial plumbing, 21 residential HVAC, 3 commercial HVAC, 5 commercial electrical, and 0 industrial electrical. 237 total inspections.

#### **7. Public Hearing and Comments**

Announce at this time, public hearings will be held. The public will have the opportunity to make pro and con comments with a ten-minute maximum time limit for each side of the matter, with each person giving their name and address. An inquiry should be made to determine if any elected official has filed a disclosure statement regarding ownership or special interest in any of the agenda items. Zoning Land Use Maps on display in Council Chambers for Zoning Advisory Board and Council hearings.

##### **A. PRD Site Amendment – Artisan Built Communities**

Public hearing of a PRD Site Amendment for 110 +/- acres, at a location of Lover's Lane Road (C56B-093), by Artisan Built Communities. The previously approved PRD included a multi-family phase, and the requested amendment is to replace the multi-family units with single family homes, thereby reducing the housing density.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the board recommended approval of the requested amendment.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments beginning with the applicant. Terry Brumlow of 1287 Curtis Parkway, and attorney for the applicant addressed council that Bob Parlow had been bombarded with

buyers for several years but held on to the property in search for a good fit for the community. He chose Artisan Built Communities after seeing one of their communities and getting to know the company, which has won several awards in the Atlanta area for their developments. The site amendment for this property would reduce the density of house from 325 units down to 249 units. The developer is planning to build in pods starting with smaller homes and going up to 2,500 square feet. There will be two entries which will open up Thornwood and should help with distribution of traffic.

- Mr. Steve Haynes of Artisan Built Communities stated that the company won Community of the Year for 2021 in the Atlanta area noting that his company builds communities, not just homes. The pod concepts included will attract three types of buyers.
- There being no other comments, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the site amendment request.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the site amendment request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

**B. Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget and Capital Plan**

First public hearing of the fiscal year 2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget and Capital Plan for the City of Calhoun and Calhoun City Schools.

- 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 gave the floor to City Administrator Worley for an overview of the proposed budget. City Administrator Worley began by thanking the finance and general government and utility department heads for their work during the budget process, which started in February and is still progressing. He also noted that the current proposed budget is available on the website at [www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com](http://www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com), but will change as the budget gets finalized. The budget overview was presented as follows:

Budget Totals Overview

- General Fund: \$18,798,788
- Recreation Fund: \$1,537,904
- Golf Fund: \$1,050,244
- Solid Waste Fund: \$994,278

Budget Totals Overview

- Water-Sewer Fund: \$23,474,455 – This fund will include a 3% increase for water and sewer.
- Electric Fund: \$40,846,555
- Telecommunications Fund: \$1,310,530
- Utility Internal Service Fund: \$3,701,943

### Major Budget Themes

- Planning for community growth – The city continues to grow while working with a 10% smaller workforce and a 30% population growth as compared to 2007.
- Addition of new employee positions - Two police officers, one school resource officers, two firefighters, and one full-time employee for the Parks Department are included in the proposed budget, with additional employees will be added over the next three years. The Fire Department has also applied for a federal grant that will fund six firefighter positions if awarded.
- Succession planning is an important theme for the city as we have several employees with multi-years of experience retiring this year.
- 0.5 millage rate increase proposed – This increase will amount to a \$20.00 per year increase on a home valued at \$100,000. The new rate will be 3.20 mils, while most cities our size range from 7.4 mils up to 9 mils. These numbers are based on the net tax digest after exemptions. We will share more statistics on the millage rate in June. We are currently at 100% Freeport, which we felt was needed to be competitive with surrounding communities. The cumulative effect of this has been impressive. We have also seen a large increase in Local Option Sales Tax.
- Average Cost of Living Adjustment of 5% - This a larger level increase than in the past. We feel it is needed to keep competitive. A raise was given in February using ARPA funds. We have weaned ourselves off ARPA funds and have budgeted these increases in the general fund so as not to rely on federal funds.
- United Healthcare insurance change – The city has used Blue Cross Blue Shield for years. In the last two years we have received a 13.5% increase and a cumulative increase of 21% over the past three years. The city has chosen to go with United Health Care which will result in a 10% savings to the city on group insurance while providing the same benefits to employees.

### Major Economic Themes

- High inflation rates – Inflation rates are the highest they have been in 40 years. This affects fuel, contracted services, pipe, fertilizer, capital equipment, which must also be accounted for in the budget.
- Wage inflation – The city is trying to remain competitive with private sector and the local workforce.
- Rising interest rates – The Federal Reserve is actively trying to slow the economy to provide for a soft landing rather than a recession. 57% of experts are predicting a recession while 43% predict a soft landing. If we have a recession Local Option Sales Tax starts dropping rapidly; therefore, this line item has been budgeted conservatively. It will be interesting to see how this pans out.
- Record low unemployment – We continue to see record lows for unemployment rates with Gordon County at 2.8% and the State of Georgia at 3.1%. There is also a record 11.5 million job openings

right now in America. City Administrator Worley concluded his presentation by thanking Mayor and Council for their support during the budget process.

- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for additional comments. Diane Kirby asked if the reduction in group insurance rates would result in a reduction for employee insurance rates. City Administrator Worley stated there would be no change in the employee insurance rate.
- There were no other comments and Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing stating the budget would be eligible for adoption on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

C. **Scrap Tire Management Ordinance**

Public hearing of an ordinance to amend Chapter 78 – Solid Waste by adding ARTICLE IV. SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT to provide for the local regulation and enforcement of individuals, businesses, property owners and other entities with regard to the proper storage and disposal of scrapped or discarded tires to protect the municipal residents and the health, safety and welfare.

- 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 comments. City Attorney Govignon stated the ordinance had been in the works for awhile and works in conjunction with state law to allow a local mechanism for enforcement.
- There being no other comments Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the ordinance change. Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the ordinance change. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. **Old Business:**

**Beer and Wine Package License – BP Calhoun Food Mart, LLC – Second Reading**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of a beer and wine package license at a location of 756 Highway 53 East, SE, by BP Calhoun Food Mart, LLC. Aseem Masani is the owner and Krupa Desai is the proposed store manager. The public hearing will be held May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

9. **New Business:**

A. **2022 City of Calhoun Zoning Map Updates – First Reading**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of the updated 2022 City of Calhoun Zoning Map stating the first eligible date for a public hearing is May 23<sup>rd</sup> to allow for proper zoning procedure and advertising. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to set the public hearing for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. **FY2023 GMA District 1 Officers**

Mayor Palmer read GMA's slate of proposed District 1 Officers for FY 2022-2023. Councilman Moyer made a motion to approve the proposed slate of District 1 Officers. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

C. Road Dedication – Willowbrook Court

Mayor Palmer read a road dedication request by Brent Stepp Construction Co., Inc. for Willowbrook Court, located within Willowbrook at The Villages Subdivision. He noted that Shane Cox, Assistant Public Works Director had submitted a letter stating that all city requirements for the street had been completed and was ready to be accepted. This newest dedication submission is for those parts of Willowbrook Way that can be found on the plats recorded as Phases Two (PB57 PG39) and Three (PB57 PG168), as well as Willowbrook Court as set out in the place for Phase Three (PB57 PG168). Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

D. Road Closure Request – Echota Baptist Church

Mayor Palmer read a request from Echota Baptist Church to block the road beginning at the mailbox by the front steps of the church, College Circle, to the stop sign behind the church at Short North Wall Street from 5:00pm to 9:00pm on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> for Vacation Bible School. Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye.

10. **Other written items not on the agenda:**

11. **Work Reports:**

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator had nothing to report.
- B. Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator recognized the Electric Department for receiving national recognition as one of the most reliable electric systems in the country. Brett Sane was present at the meeting with the award. Pictures were taken with Mayor and Council.
- C. George Govignon, City Attorney stated that oral arguments pertaining to the item discussed in the afternoon work session would be held in court room D at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

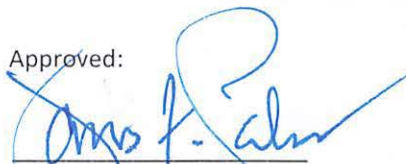
12. **Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed:**

13. **Motion to return to General Session:**

14. **Motion to adjourn:**

There being no other discussion Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Sharon Nelson, City Clerk