



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2025 - 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
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilmember

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Ken Carson, Police Department; and Todd Holbert, Fire Department.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**
Welcome
Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
Invocation
Councilmember Edwards 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**
 - A. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of November 24, 2025. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- B. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of November 24, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer announced that the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Calhoun Gordon Youth Leadership was in attendance at tonight's meeting. This year's class includes 36 seniors which represent the four High School systems in Gordon County. (Calhoun, Gordon Central, Sonoraville, and Georgia Cumberland-Academy). These students represent their school systems as prospective future community leaders. The class is sponsored by the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce Leadership program. It will meet for 8 months outside of the school system during the FY 25/26 school year with the mission of introducing the students to Leadership opportunities within their community. Topics the class will be introduced to will include team building, community health and public safety, community economic development, community industry that includes a county tour day of local manufacturing, service and agriculture businesses, and government that includes meetings with the Calhoun City Council, Gordon County Commissioners and a trip to the Capitol to meet with the state legislative delegation. The intent is to introduce class members to the community and how community activities take place through government, local business influence and service industries. The vision of the program is that once the students graduate they will volunteer and give back to their community. This is the 31st integration of this program conducted over the past 32 years. To date, approximately 1,400 High School juniors and seniors have graduated from the program.

6. **Council Comments**

- A. Councilmember Palazzolo submitted November reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Current Electric Department Engineering and Construction:

- The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.

ENGINEERING

New development on Peters St (102 homes)

Reroute of the Salem Rd pump station line

CONSTRUCTION

New field house and hitting facility at Calhoun High School

Piedmont Street Pole Upgrades

New townhomes on Newtown Rd (Ridgeview) (65 units)

Taco Bell on Red Bud Rd

Continued system upgrades for new growth and system reliability

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:

• NEWLY CREATED	53
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	54
•	
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	17
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	4
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	2
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	3
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	3
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	18
• NEW METER SETS	13
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	56
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	200
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The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for NOVEMBER 2025 is about 26.5 million kilowatt hours (kWh's).

2) **Telecommunications**

- Multiple meetings with ATT about cancelling/upgrading old copper phone lines.
- Meeting with DELL reps on updating our 2 GIS Servers.
- Worked on migrating Windows 10 machines to Windows 11 operating system.
- Finished installing new camera system at Sewer Plant.
- Worked on Backup Server updates.
- Troubleshooted and fixed a few Munis software issues.
- Completed updates on our virtual server software.
- Ran updates on Core Firewall appliance.
- Ran updates on Police Department Firewall appliance.
- Setup and installed 1 new laptop and 2 new desktop computers.
- Troubleshooted a number of customer's internet connections.
- Submitted 2 quotes for new internet customers.
- Completed 2 customer site visits for internet service.
- Completed a number of 811 fiber locates.
- Opened 19 work orders and closed 18 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Updated Downtown Development Area Map
- Update Sewer data in GIS
- Updated cemetery mapping data
- 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 64 permits for an estimated cost of \$2,018,175, collected \$15,606 in permit fees. This included 7 new residential, 7 residential remodel, 0 new commercial, 3 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 0 industrial remodel, 8 residential plumbing, 13 residential electrical, 10 residential HVAC, 0 commercial plumbing, 2 commercial electrical, 3 commercial HVAC, 0 industrial plumbing, and 0 industrial electrical. 0 total inspections.

4) **Library**

- There are 1,309 library card holders, 4,421 library visitors, and 6,195 total circulation.
- There were 192 story time attendance, 271 adult program attendance, 4,421 new users, 1,643 e-books, 2,817 audio books, 499 computer logins, and 1,201 Facebook visits.

B. Councilmember Edwards submitted November reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 338,640,000
- Daily average: 11,288,000
- Wells: 103,440,000
- Big Springs: 55,650,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 46.9%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 44.94%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 37.40%
 - Rainfall for November – 1.42”

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 3.741 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 4, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 68.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 307 work orders completed, 22 new water connections, 16 water service leaks repaired, 20 water main leaks repaired, 0 water services changed to new main lines, 182 meter changes, 32 utility locates called in for work orders, 571 utility locates responses.
- 2,100 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 442 utility locates completed, 4,900 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 1 new sewer connections installed, 9 sanitary sewer connections installed by contractors, 0 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

Projects Under Construction

- Brittany Dr & Water Booster Stations Standby Generator Project – This project is approximately 95% completed.
- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project – This project is approximately 70% completed.
- GDOT SR 53 & Brown Lee Mtn. Water Relocation Project – This project is approximately 80% completed.

Projects in Design & Development

- New Fire Tower Water Tank Project – Surveying has been completed and design is underway.
- Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Modifications
- GDOT SR 156 @ Salacoa Bridge Water Relocation Project
- GDOT Project - Hwy 41 N @ CSX Bridge Water & Sewer Relocation
- Peters St. Phase III Water Relocation – Under preliminary review.
- Curtis Pkwy Water & Sewer Relocation – Right-of-way acquisition is currently underway, and material for this project has been delivered.
- Engineering for Spring Valley Sewer Phase II Rehabilitation Project (30% Complete)
- The Engineering Department is actively working on 6 plan reviews, along with 18 inspections of developments and projects that are progressively under construction.

C. Councilmember Denmon submitted November reports as follows:

1) Public Works

Street Department

- Completed 28 shop and 27 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 14 new street signs.
- Framed in building for our new brine plant.
- Cleaned out ditch in Brookstone.

Cemetery

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites.
- Sold 4 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.
- Put out Christmas decorations around town.

Animal Control

- Housed 39 dogs and 18 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 3
- Number of cats adopted: 4

- Number of dogs rescued: 5
- Number of cats rescued: 14
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 6
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 3
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issued: 1

2) **Recreation Department**

PROGRAMS:

YOUTH BASKETBALL: Registration for youth basketball concluded with 181 boys and girls registering. There are 25 teams in 7-8 through 13-14 divisions. Teams have been formed and practices began on November 3. Scheduled games began December 6. Games are being played at Billy Bearden Recreation Center through December along with the Calhoun Middle School gym. Beginning in January games will be played at Calhoun Elementary and Calhoun Middle School gyms.

YOUTH FOOTBALL: The 7-8 all-star team participated in the GRPA 5th District football tournament. Calhoun Recreation Department hosted the 7-8 Boys division November 20 and 22.

YOUTH SOCCER: The 8u,10u, and 12u boys soccer all-star teams participated in the GRPA 5th District tournament at Cedartown November 15. All 3 of our boys teams won their district tournaments and played in the GRPA State tournament December 5 and 6 hosted by Thomasville YMCA. The 8u, 10u, and 12u girls advanced to the GRPA State tournament November 21 and 22 hosted by Jackson County. The 7-8 Girls teams finished as state runner-up.

TENNIS –

League play was held throughout the month

POWERWHEELS EVENT – The annual power wheels event was held November 15. There were 10 Entries that participated in this annual event.

CITY/COUNTY TREE LIGHTING – Our department participated in the tree lighting downtown with a kids space where everyone could make a Santas key. We had great attendance for this event with over 100 participants.

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK:

FACEBOOK
53,386 – Reached
21 – Posts
2,979– Engagements

WEBSITE
1,015 – Sessions
752 – Users
1,741 – Page Views

33 – New Page Followers

8– Posts

FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- 1- Repainted soccer fields for tournament play
- 2- Trimmed and weeded planters –new complex
- 3- Field maintenance – 3 softball/baseball fields – new complex
- 4- Daily maintenance throughout parks
- 5- Winterized irrigation system

GRPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Six staff members attended the GRPA Conference November 2-6, 2025. A total of 64 continuing education sessions were attended between staff members.

3) Downtown Development Authority

Merry & Bright Weekend

Merry & Bright Weekend exceeded all expectations. While we anticipated strong attendance, the turnout on both days far surpassed projections.

Saturday – Christmas Tree Lighting:

Thousands of residents and visitors filled Downtown Calhoun for an evening of caroling, sleigh rides, holiday movies, festive treats, Santa and the Grinch, snow at City Park, and more. Casse’s on Wall Street contributed significantly to the festive atmosphere by offering outdoor s’mores, a cocoa bar, and winter soups. The City partnered with the Gem Theatre to offer two classic Disney holiday short films (1935 and 1952) played on a loop during the first hour, allowing attendees to enjoy a brief film as they moved between activities. The event was supported by numerous community groups, organizations, and businesses, all of whom worked together to create a memorable kickoff to the holiday season.

Sunday – Holiday Open House:

Sunday’s Open House continued the momentum, with strong crowds and excellent engagement from our downtown businesses. Sidewalks remained busy throughout the afternoon with shoppers carrying packages, families enjoying the film at the Gem, and visitors participating in the HAC’s Festival of Trees silent auction. Many businesses reported an exceptionally strong sales day.

Downtown was vibrant all weekend. By redesigning Merry & Bright as a focused micro-event and investing in enhanced programming, we saw a clear return in both local shopping activity and community engagement.

Historic Preservation Commission

Façade Grant

The Historic Preservation Commission approved a façade grant for Healing Hands Massage on Oothcalooga Street. Sandra, the building owner and

business operator, has been an excellent steward of her historic property. The approved project will address and repair water-related damage to the façade. The Commission looks forward to supporting the rehabilitation of this contributing historic resource.

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

1) **Police Department**

- Made 176 cases with 7 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$32,838
- Issued 306 warnings
- Investigated 62 highway accidents, 24 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 12
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 5
- Alarm responses - 99
- Miles patrolled: 45,908

2) **Municipal Court**

- Citations from Police Department-176
- Court cases docketed- 232
- Probation cases assigned- 3
- Probation revocations- 1
- Bench warrants-4
- Failure to appear- 21

3) **Fire Department**

Suppression Division

- 226 Total Calls for Service to Include:
 - 10 – Fire Calls
 - 0 – Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Excessive Heat (No Fire)
 - 159 – Rescue and EMS Response
 - 8 – Hazardous Conditions Calls (No Fire)
 - 6 – Service Calls
 - 31 – Good Intent Calls
 - 12 – False Alarms or False Calls
 - 0 – Severe Weather and Natural Disaster
 - 0 – Special Incident Types

Department Response Times

- Turnout Time – 1 minute 45 seconds
- Travel Time – 3 minutes 32 seconds
- Total Response Time – 5 minutes and 17 seconds

Department Events

- November – Advanced EMT Course Continued with Five Students

- November 4th – November 6th, 2025 – All personnel participated in the Grady Hospital The Butterfly Effect for Burn Care: EMS Response to the Burn Patient Course.
- November 11th, 2025 – Participated in the Veteran’s Day Parade
- November 12th, 2025 – Division Chief Saylor attended a GSAR Program Update Meeting.
- November 12th – 14th, 2025 – Battalion Chief Green, Lieutenant Duke, Lieutenant Gilbert, and Engineer Dixon performed a final inspection on the new SL-75 Ladder Truck.
- November 14th, 2025 – Division Chief Saylor and Lieutenant Underwood attended the SOEMS Instructor Update at Chattahoochee Technical College.
- November 17th, 2025 – Division Chief Saylor attended the Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents.
- November 18th, 2025 – Division Chief Saylor attended the Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities Course.
- November 21st, 2025 – Shift Personnel and Training Division participated in the Safety Driving Summit that was hosted by Calhoun High School.
- November 21st, 2025 – Took delivery of the new Sutphen SL-75 Ladder Truck
- November 22nd, 2025 – Personnel participated in the Merry and Bright Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting. We interacted with over 450 individuals
- November 25th, 2025 – Hosted the Northwest Georgia Training Officer and Northwest Georgia Fire Chief’s Association Meetings

Inspections Division

- 70 – Total Monthly Inspections
- 450 – Citizens received Fire and Life Safety Education throughout the month

Training Division

- 865.92 Hours – Total Department Monthly Training Hours.
- 14103.94 Hours – Total Department Annual Training Hours.

December Upcoming Events

- December – Advanced EMT class will continue throughout the month
- December 2nd – 4th, 2025 – Williams Fire will provide initial training on the Sutphen SL-75 Ladder Truck
- December 8th, 2025 – GPSTC Structural Fire Control Instructor Course

- December 9th, 2025 – Calhoun Fire Department Christmas Party
- December 11th, 2025 – City of Calhoun Christmas Parade
- December 16th, 2025 – Calhoun Police Department CPR Course
- December 22nd, 2025 – Santa in Uniform Event with Gordon County Fire

4) **Safety Committee**

- Vehicle accidents: 0
- Workers' compensation: 0

7. **Zoning Hearings 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. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from County C-4 to C-2 for 6.70 acres, at a location of 1336 Highway 41, being parcel 042B-075, by Kevan Carpenter.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices
- Councilmember Edwards gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the Board recommended approval of the annexation and zoning request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning annexation request. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request of C-2. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from County R-4 to R-1B for 0.89 acres, at a location of 117 Henderson Bend Road, being parcel 042B-076, by Kevan Carpenter.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices
- Councilmember Edwards gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the Board recommended approval of the annexation and zoning request.

- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the annexation request. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request of R-1B. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
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8. Other Hearings and Comments

- A. Public hearing of a beer package license request at a location of 528 Court Street, by Devin Desai. Mr. Desai is the owner and will also serve as the store manager.
- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
 - City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices
 - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments.
 - There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the alcohol request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

9. Old Business

10. New Business

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a variance request for a proposed accessory building that would exceed the allowable maximum size of 50% of the primary structure's footprint. The proposed garage exceeds this limit by 181 square feet. The request pertains to 0.225 acres located at 500 Pisgah Way, being parcel C24-030, and is submitted by Montana Etheridge. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on January 8th and the public hearing January 12th.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 10.14 of the City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances, revising sign and copy area regulations for billboards adjacent to designated state routes and Interstate 75; updating public street right-of-way setback requirements and required separation from residential zoning districts; establishing an effective date; and for other purposes. The public hearing will be held January 12th.
- C. Mayor Palmer read the 2026 taxicab license renewal for Taxi Express. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer read a request from Telecom/GIS Departments to purchase new GIS servers to replace existing servers that are no longer supported, using the Telecommunications annual operation budget. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the request. 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

- 1) City Administrator Worley recognized David Raines for 37 years of dedicated service and wished him the best of luck in retirement.
- 2) City Administrator Worley reported that the 2026 liability insurance renewals were reviewed in detail during today's work session. He recommended that the Council accept the proposal from Starr Mathews and proceed with coverage through both Travelers Insurance and Richmond National. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer moved to approve the recommendation, and Councilmember Denmon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) City Administrator Worley expressed his appreciation to Giles Jones for his eight (8) years of service as Public Defender for the City of Calhoun. He noted that the City will begin its search for a new Public Defender. The current ordinance requires the Public Defender to be a resident of Gordon County. Mr. Worley recommended updating the ordinance to remove this requirement in order to broaden the pool of qualified candidates. He requested that the Council consider this as the first reading of the proposed ordinance amendment. All Council members were in agreement with proceeding with the change.
- 4) City Administrator Worley stated that the Fire Chief Interview Committee recommends Mike Schutz for appointment as the next Fire Chief for the City of Calhoun, based on his exceptional qualifications, depth of experience, and demonstrated leadership capabilities. With nearly 30 years in the fire service—including service as Deputy Chief overseeing field operations across 29 stations and hundreds of personnel—Mike brings a proven record of operational excellence, strategic decision-making, and collaborative leadership. His background includes key roles in training, emergency response, technical rescue, EMS, and incident command, supported by strong academic preparation in organizational management and public safety leadership. He is also recognized for earning the Georgia Fire Chief designation. The committee determined that Mike's experience, character, and commitment to community service makes him an excellent choice to lead the Calhoun Fire Department into its next chapter. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to appoint Mike Schutz as the new Fire Chief for City of Calhoun. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Mr. Schutz was present at the meeting and thanked council members for putting their trust in him, stating that he was looking forward to working with the city.

B. Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator had nothing to report.

C. George Govignon, City Attorney had nothing to report.

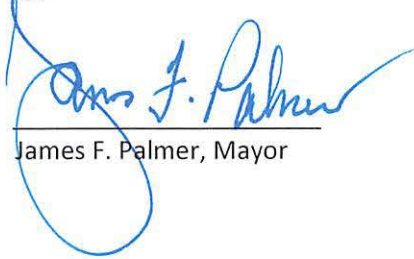
13. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

14. Motion to return to General Session

15. Motion to Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Council, Councilmember Palazzolo 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 7:40 p.m.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

