



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 8, 2026 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ed Moyer, Mayor Pro Tem
Al Edwards, Councilmember
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilmember

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; Brandon Bowen, City Attorney; Ken Carson, Police; and Sharon Nelson, City Clerk.

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**
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. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the council meeting of May 18, 2026. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
 - B. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the minutes of the executive session of May 18, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. The second public hearing on the City's Annual Operating Budget and Capital Plan for Calhoun City Schools and the City of Calhoun for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 will be held tonight and is eligible for adoption at the June 22nd meeting.

6. **Council Comments**

- A. Councilmember Palazzolo submitted May reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 177 cases with 6 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$34,979
- Issued 448 warnings
- Investigated 47 highway accidents, 36 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 4
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 2
- Alarm responses -107
- Miles patrolled: 44,418

2) **Municipal Court**

- Citations from Police Department-177
- Court cases docketed - 140
- Probation cases assigned - 4
- Probation revocations - 1
- Bench warrants - 1
- Failure to appear - 18

3) **Fire Department**

Suppression Division

- 187 – Total Calls for Service to Include:
 - 9 – Fire Calls
 - 127 – Rescue and EMS Response
 - 51 – Service Calls
- 6.8% decrease in call volume from April

Department Response Times

- Turnout Time – 1 minute 50 seconds
- Travel Time – 3 minutes 32 seconds
- Total Response Time – 5 minutes and 22 seconds
- 8.7% decrease in response times from April

Inspections Division

- 20 – Annual Inspections
- 1 - Reinspection

- 8 – Inspections Requested
- 6 - Consultations

Training Division

- 862.33 Hours – Total Department Monthly Training Hours
- 27.98% decrease in training hours from April

Public Relations

- 5 – Public Relations Events
- 58 – Adults who received Fire and Life Safety Education
- 309 – Children who received Fire and Life Safety Education
- 836.78% decrease in individuals reached from April

Department Monthly Events

- May 3rd, 2026 – Provided Medical Coverage for Baxter Dean Runway Show
- May 7th, 2026 – Gordon County Home School Field Day Event
- May 14th – May 16th, 2026 – Hosted MAFFC Firefighter Training Conference
- May 14th – May 15th, 2026 – Calhoun Early Learning Academy Water Day PR Event
- May 21st, 2026 – Calhoun Primary School Water Day Event

May Upcoming Events

- June 2nd, 2026 – United We Read PR Event
- June 4th, 2026 – LCK After School PR Event
- June 5th, 2026 – Calhoun High School Camp Week PR Event
- June 6th, 2026 – Wings and Wheels Day PR Event
- June 9th, 2026 – United We Read PR Event
- June 16th, 2026 – Camp Sunshine PR Event
- June 16th, 2026 – United We Read PR Event
- June 23rd, 2026 – Community Helpers Week PR Event
- June 23rd, 2026 – United We Read PR Event
- June 26th, 2026 – United We Read PR Event

4) **Safety Committee**

There was no safety meeting held in the month of May. They are now held on a quarterly basis. All safety inspections have been performed for the year.

- Vehicle accidents: 0 vehicle
- Workers compensation: 1- Fire

5) **Library**

- There are 13,103 library card holders, 5,153 library visitors, and 7,027 total circulation.
- There were 288 story time attendance, 247 adult program attendance, 147 new users, 1,882 e-books, 3,232 audio books, 371 computer logins, and 4,349 Facebook visits.

B. Councilmember Edwards presented May reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Current Electric Department Engineering and Construction:

The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.

ENGINEERING

- Dialysis Center on Curtis Pkwy
- Store on Curtis Pkwy
- New Recreation Department
- 180 Professional Ct (New Building)
- New roundabout on Curtis Pkwy
- New Rec Dept

CONSTRUCTION

- New development on Peters St (102 homes)
- Salacoa Subdivision
- Piedmont Street Pole Upgrades
- New townhomes on Newtown Rd (Ridgeview) (65 units)
- Reroute of the Salem Rd pump station line
- Continued system upgrades for new growth and system reliability
- New homes at Old Mill phase 2

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:

• NEWLY CREATED	101
• CLOSED	98
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	18
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	20
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	21
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	1

• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	3
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	23
• NEW METER SETS	7
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	56
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	225

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for MAY 2026 is about 28 million kilowatt hours (kWh's).

2) **Telecommunications**

- Completed Calhoun High School Press Box elevator phone service with ATT.
- Continued to organize all department's email accounts in preparation for migration to new system.
- Completed securing the new calhounga.gov domain and getting it setup.
- Started Email System Migration Project.
- Worked on getting Electric Department's new intellirupter devices software installed and configured.
- Started working with First Due for Fire Department migration of data.
- Worked with support on fixing issue with ArcServe backup software.
- Software updates on Email server.
- Setup and installed 4 new laptop/desktop computers.
- Troubleshooted a number of customer's internet connections.
- Upgraded 1 customer's internet plan.
- Submitted 2 quotes for new internet customers.
- Completed a number of 811 fiber locates.
- Opened 18 work orders and closed 18 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Worked with First Due for Fire Department mapping data access.
- Fiber Network Map conversion to new ArcPro.
- Water meter and water system updates.
- Submitted updated Electric data to our locate company USIC.
- 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 147 permits for an estimated cost of \$6,782,933, collected \$50,134 in permit fees. This included 26 new residential, 6 residential remodel, 0 new commercial, 1 commercial remodel, 1 new industrial, 1 industrial remodel, 21 residential plumbing, 30 residential electrical, 28 residential HVAC, 1 commercial plumbing, 4 commercial electrical, 1 commercial HVAC, 1 industrial plumbing, and 1 industrial electrical. 385 total inspections.

C. Mayor Palmer submitted May reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 366,890,000
- Daily average: 11,835,161
- Wells: 76,810,000
- Big Springs: 85,840,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 44.3%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 44.46%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 41.18%
 - Rainfall for May—7.50"

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 6.184 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 7, and an average COD of 63.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 208 work orders completed, 37 new water connections, 18 water service leaks repaired, 11 water main leaks repaired, 65 meter changes, 40 utility locates called in for work orders, 735 utility locates responses.
- 2,900 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 533 utility locates completed, 4,630 feet sanitary sewer mains cleaned, 3 new sewer connections installed, 23 sanitary sewer connections installed by contractors, 6 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

Projects Under Construction

- East May St, Hazel St, Sandy St, & Pamela Dr 2" & 4" Galvanized and Cast Iron Replacement Project. This project consists of replacing approximately 8,000' of undersized and/or aging water lines to improve serviceability and water quality for the surrounding customers. Approximately 5% of this project has been completed.
- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project –This project consists of improving an older segment of our sewer system to reduce I&I and free up additional capacity of this sub-basin. The scope includes upgrading approx. 6,000' of sewer main from a 12 inch to 15 inches. This project is approximately 87% completed, with crews addressing the final

remaining punch-list items that consist of dress-up, testing, coating a few outstanding manholes, etc.

- GDOT SR 53 & Brown Lee Mtn. Water Relocation Project – This project is under construction and consists of consolidating, relocating, and upsizing two different water lines to accommodate highway improvements near the intersection. GDOT has indicated that the required construction easement to finalize the project has been obtained. Construction will resume in the upcoming weeks. This project is approximately 90% completed.
- New Fire Tower Water Tank Project –This project is now out for bid, and consists of replacing an aging and undersized 1 million gallon tank for a new 2 million gallon tank on the north side of our system. Proposals are due June 18th.

Projects in Design & Development

- Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Modifications – Conceptual design of the two water treatment plants is now underway.
- GDOT SR 156 @ Salacoa Bridge Water Relocation Project. - This project consists of relocating approximately 4,000' of 8" water lines to accommodate a GDOT bridge replacement project. Utility coordination meeting was held with GDOT on May 26th. Right-of-way clearing will begin within a few weeks, followed by relaying the waterline shortly after.
- Salem Rd Bridge Water Relocation Project - This project consists of relocating approximately 600' of 12" water lines to accommodate a Gordon County bridge replacement project. Permitting for this project is now underway.
- Boone Ford @ Lovers Lane Water Relocation Project – This project consists relocating approximately 500' of varying-sized lines to accommodate a Gordon County intersection improvement project.
- Peters St. Phase III Water Relocation – Under preliminary review.
- Curtis Pkwy Water & Sewer Relocation – Right-of-way acquisition has been completed. This project consists of relocating existing water and sewer lines for road and intersection improvements along Curtis Pkwy.
- Engineering for Spring Valley Sewer Phase II Rehabilitation Project (90% Review Scheduled for Mid-May) This project is a continuation of Ph I, which focuses on improving an older segment of our sewer system to reduce I&I and free up additional capacity in this sub-basin.
- RFQs have been released for engineering and grant writing services for the Blackwood Creek Sewer Rehab/Improvement project. This is a necessary procedure to seek grant opportunities from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Blackwood Creek project consists of rehabbing and upgrading approximately 3,300' of an older, under-sized portion of our sewer system. The benefits of this project fall within the criteria for eligible projects.

- The Engineering Department is actively working on 12 plan reviews, along with approx. 20 inspections of developments and projects that are progressively under construction.

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

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

- Completed 28 shop and 30 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 10 new street signs.
- Repaired pot holes and utility cuts using 32 tons of asphalt.
- Cut and removed a tree on West Drive.

Cemetery

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 8 grave sites.
- Sold 5 grave spaces in Chandler and 2 in Fain. No columbarium spaces sold.

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.
- Installed 2 new doorknobs at City Hall.

Animal Control

- Housed 31 dogs and 17 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 16
- Number of cats adopted: 6
- Number of dogs rescued: 6
- Number of cats rescued: 1
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 2
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 1
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 1
- Number of bite cases: 3
- Citations issued: 0

2) **Recreation Department**

PROGRAMS:

Youth Soccer – The spring soccer season was completed on May 2. A total of six matches were played May 2.

Youth Baseball and Softball – The spring baseball and softball season was completed on May 14. There were 47 games played during the month. All-

Star team selection meetings were held May 5 and 6. We have 6 all-star teams that will be competing in GRPA District tournaments beginning June 4 through June 13. We are hosting the GRPA District 11-12 Boys tournament June 4 – 11 with 9 teams participating.

Youth Volleyball – Our spring youth volleyball season ended May 14. There were 18 matches played during the month.

Youth Track - We had 33 boys and girls participate in the GRPA State Track meet in Carrollton May 9. There were 10 of our participants that medaled in their events. We are very pleased with our inaugural season of track and field.

Adult Volleyball – The adult volleyball league finished May 20. There were 12 matches played throughout the month.

Senior Trips – There are 2 trips planned for June.
June 18 – Saddle Creek Lavendar Farm – Ranger, Ga
June 30 – Unclaimed Baggage – Scottsboro, Al

Camp South River – Summer Camp registration was open throughout the month. June 1 was the first week of camp with 49 campers attending.

Outdoor Programs – We have several outdoor excursions planned for the summer. Including hiking, kayaking and tubing. The first excursion was Saturday June 6.

Adult Softball – There are 10 teams participating in the adult softball league. Games began May 28.

Tennis –
Evening Quads – all courts
Daytime Quads – 10 courts – 50 participants
Drills and Instruction Daily – 40 participants weekly
Weekend Quads – June 14 and June 21 – all courts
Sara Hayes Mixed Tournament – July 10 – 15

PARKS MAINTENANCE:

The following tasks were completed during the month:

Mowed all park acreage
Groomed all park entrances
Groomed dog park and waste stations
Prepped baseball/softball fields
Prepped soccer fields
Playground inspection

WEBSITE USAGE:

CalhounRec

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

Page Views – 3,613
Users – 1,343
Posts – 5

Post Engagements 3,830
Views – 59,208
Posts – 26

Views – 321
Reach – 94
Posts – 26

TOURNAMENTS:

PGF GIRLS FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT - May 16-17 – There were 28 teams that participated with 756 visitors to the park. The estimated economic impact for the 2 day tournament is \$113,400.

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

Beautification

The downtown planter project continues to be a success and has significantly enhanced the appearance of downtown. The self-watering planters have performed exceptionally well and are helping maintain healthy, vibrant plantings throughout the season.

- Downtown planters continue to thrive and provide added color and visual appeal.
- Self-watering planters have proven to be an effective investment with minimal maintenance concerns.
- We are exploring opportunities to expand the planter program in the future. Keep Calhoun-Gordon Beautiful (KCGB) is coordinating replanting efforts at:
 - City Park gateway planters
 - Court Street planter near the Depot parking lot entrance
- KCGB's partnership with Downtown Development staff and the Parks & Maintenance Department has been instrumental in the success of these beautification efforts.

Downtown Infrastructure & Streetscape Updates

We are excited by the prospect of adding new crosswalk(s) along Wall Street/U.S. Highway 41 and look forward to working to advance this project. During market days and other downtown events, pedestrian traffic between City Park and the Calhoun-Gordon County Library remains significant, with many individuals crossing outside designated pedestrian areas.

As downtown continues to grow and attract more visitors, additional crosswalk infrastructure will improve pedestrian safety, accessibility, and connectivity between key destinations. Walkability remains one of the most important components of a successful downtown district. Improvements that make it easier and safer for residents and visitors to move throughout

downtown not only enhance the visitor experience but also increase exposure to local businesses, restaurants, and retail establishments.

Downtown Business & Property Development

Interest in downtown Calhoun remains strong, though available commercial space continues to be limited.

- Renovations are underway at 113 S. Wall Street for a new outdoor recreation retail business. This business will add a retail category currently not represented downtown.
 - Business owner: Jeremy King (a City employee)
 - Focus: outdoor recreation retail sales and guided hunting/fishing trip bookings
 - Expected opening: November 2026
- We hosted two prospective business owners exploring downtown locations: one restaurant concept & one retail concept

While this level of interest is encouraging, the limited availability of suitable commercial space continues to be one of downtown's primary barriers to growth.

Moving forward, we need to continue working with property owners to identify funding opportunities and technical assistance programs that can support building rehabilitation, code compliance improvements, and commercial kitchen build-outs. Expanding the inventory of usable commercial space remains critical to increasing business density, supporting entrepreneurship, and growing the local tax base. It would also be helpful to sit down and figure out the common barriers to business owners taking advantage of the Revolving Fund so we can work toward solutions to those barriers.

Downtown Events & Programming

DCFM: The Downtown Calhoun Farmers Market season is off to a strong start despite several weeks of unfavorable weather. We are seeing strong shopper attendance despite rainy weather with high vendor participation and enthusiasm. Market performance data will be presented in future reports.

Upcoming Kids Day – June 9

Activities scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. include:

- Seed planting
- Painting activities

- Scavenger hunt
- The beloved "Catch a Duck" activity
- Storytime with Noni's Nook at 10:30 a.m.

Market Growth & Economic Impact

The Farmers Market continues to serve as an economic development tool by supporting local agriculture and small business growth.

- New Market Coordinator Alicia Reeves has established strong relationships with vendors and is helping shape long-term market growth strategies.
- Local farms continue to expand production. Atchley & Ricney Farms have increased seasonal crop production. Powell Farms are expanding from beef production to include sheep.
- Staff is planning a late-summer Farm-to-Table Dinner experience that will raise funds for the market, highlight local farms and food producers & strengthen community connections to local agriculture.

Downtown Concert Series

Planning has resumed following the recent commitment of a series sponsor. Thank you Community Foundation of Calhoun-Gordon County!

- Community survey feedback indicated a preference for events spread throughout the year. We are evaluating late-summer and fall concert dates.
- Goal: reduce concentration of events during the hottest summer months and create more year-round programming opportunities.

Cornhole ATL League

We have been working with Cornhole ATL regarding the possibility of establishing a recreational cornhole league in downtown Calhoun. Cornhole ATL operates leagues throughout Georgia and specifically targets downtown locations because of their walkability and access to dining and entertainment options. The goal is to add a recreation activity and activate a downtown space during a time when foot traffic might normally be slower.

Following evaluation of several potential sites, we have identified a portion of the South Park Avenue parking lot as the preferred location. A separate request regarding temporary parking lot closure and establishment of an open-container area during league play is presented for Council consideration. The league would operate on Thursday evenings, beginning at 6:00 p.m., with each season running approximately seven weeks.

Please see our attached request regarding:

- Temporary parking lot closure
- Open-container district designation during league hours

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 ordinance to amend and readopt the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Calhoun, Georgia, to provide for certain conditional uses, to address buffers, and to repeal conflicting ordinances; and for other purposes.

- 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. Several individuals addressed the Council regarding concerns about data center developments in neighboring jurisdictions and the potential for similar facilities to locate within the City of Calhoun. Those who spoke expressed opposition to the development of data centers within the city limits.
- Mayor Pro Tem Moyer stated that he would like to make a motion to extend the current moratorium on data center development for an additional six months beyond the July 27 expiration date. This extension will provide the City of Calhoun with the necessary time to thoroughly evaluate the potential impacts of data centers on our community and ensure that any future decisions are made with the best interests of our citizens in mind. Our residents deserve the opportunity to learn about data center development, ask questions, express concerns, and provide input before decisions are made that could have lasting effects on Calhoun. Public meetings, stakeholder discussions, and expert presentations can help ensure that the community's voice is heard throughout this process. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the data center moratorium was extended until the second meeting in January 2027 (January 25, 2027).
- Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the zoning ordinance.
- Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Public hearing of an ordinance to amend and modernize the Amusements and Entertainments Ordinance, to repeal conflicting ordinances; and for other purposes.

- 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. A citizen inquired about the phrase “and for other purposes” contained in the ordinance title. City Attorney Bowen explained that the language is standard legal terminology commonly included in ordinances to encompass related legal provisions and ensure completeness. He noted that the ordinance, including its supporting documentation, is available for public review on the City’s website. Attorney Bowen further explained that the proposed amendment primarily serves to modernize the City’s adult entertainment regulations and incorporates studies and findings addressing recognized secondary effects associated with such establishments.
- There were no other comments and Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning ordinance amendment. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

C. Public hearing of the 2026 Calhoun Zoning Map.

- 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 Administrator Worley stated the zoning map is available on the city’s website.
- There were no other comments and Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning Zoning Map. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the zoning map as presented. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. Other Hearings and Comments

A. Second public hearing on the Calhoun City Schools and City of Calhoun Annual Operating Budget and Capital Plan for Calhoun City Schools and the City of Calhoun for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

- 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 Calhoun City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Michele Taylor for presentation of the FY 2027 budget. Dr. Taylor’s presentation was as follows:

CCS has only been provided with an unofficial allotment for QBE revenue for FY27; therefore, the FY27 budget will change as updated information becomes available.

Local revenues increased by \$431,055 based on projected FY26 tax revenues and an increase in interest earnings. The QBE allotment increased by \$2,313,562 due to the increase in the employer portion of State Health for certified employees, the employer cost of TRS, and equalization.

There were no raises given to employees for FY27. The largest increases are in benefits, which are costs outside of our control. The employer cost of State Health for certified employees will increase from \$1,885 per member per month to \$1,935 per member per month effective July 1, 2026. The budget impact was an increase of \$163,200.

The state provides funding for this increase for all certified employees paid from the General Fund and reported on the October CPI Report; however, there is always a discrepancy between the number of employees funded and the actual number of employees with health insurance due to the timing of the CPI Report.

The employer cost of State Health for classified employees will also increase in July 2026 from \$1,885 per member per month to \$1,935 per member per month for a budget impact of \$67,800. The state does not fund any of this cost.

TRS is also increasing effective July 1, 2026. The employer cost is increasing from 21.9% to 22.32% on salaries resulting in a budget impact of \$157,020.

Additionally, each year we have employees receive advanced degrees, and the district budgets for the related increases in salary and benefits. For FY27, the total increase for advanced degrees is approximately \$191,764.

All principals/department heads were asked to cut their budgets by 10%.

The few increases in operating costs include liability insurance, Centegix renewal, and training for the Board of Education. Centegix is our crises alert system that allows staff to signal a need for help and notify first responders of their exact location.

The amount budgeted for General Fund Operating Transfers includes:

- \$1,004,193 for Fund 150
- \$370,424 for Lottery Pre-K
- \$12,500 for the Turf Fund
- \$20,000 for the Aquatic Fund
- \$121,162 for the School-Based Mental Health Grant (SBMH)

To balance the budget, \$3,889,589 will be used from the ending balance.

Mayor Palmer asked if the public had any questions or comments about the school's budget. There were no comments.

- Mayor Palmer gave the floor to City Administrator Worley for presentation of the City of Calhoun FY2027 budget as follows:

Mr. Worley expressed appreciation to the Finance Department, department heads, Mayor, and City Council for their collaboration in developing a balanced FY 2027 budget.

Key FY 2027 challenges and risks were identified, including economic pressures resulting from inflation and construction cost volatility; public safety recruitment and retention challenges; workforce competition for both entry-level and skilled employees; rising personnel costs associated with wages, health insurance, retirement contributions, and broader labor market pressures; infrastructure demands related to utility expansion, water treatment plant modifications, and distribution system repairs and upgrades; and capital asset needs stemming from aging facilities and fleet replacement requirements.

Despite these challenges, the local economy remains strong, supported by low unemployment rates and continued growth in sales tax collections.

It was further noted that, as a result of the passage of Senate Bill 33, the City now has the ability to apply up to six months of Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) proceeds toward property tax relief. This is anticipated to reduce the proposed millage rate from 4.25 mills to 2.32 mills based on current estimates, representing the City's lowest millage rate since 2018. These estimates still have the variables of an estimated net tax digest and an estimate for sales tax collection rates.

A comparison of municipal staffing levels showed a reduction from approximately 24 employees per 1,000 residents in 2007 to approximately 16 employees per 1,000 residents in 2026. This trend was highlighted as evidence of the City's commitment to fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency.

Water and sewer rate comparisons were also presented, demonstrating that Calhoun's average monthly utility bill of \$80.70 is approximately 20 percent lower than comparable rates in Rome and Dalton and approximately 54 percent lower than rates in Bartow County.

The proposed budget was described as a reflection of prudent financial management, balancing service delivery, infrastructure investment, and long-term fiscal sustainability while continuing to maximize resources efficiently.

- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and reminded those present at the meeting that the budget will be eligible for adoption at the June 22nd Council meeting.

9. Old Business

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of a beer and wine package application at a location of 118 WC Bryant Parkway by La Bodega Calhoun, Inc. Mohit

Manson is the owner and will also serve as the store manager. The public hearing will be on June 22, 2026.

10. **New Business**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a building front setback variance request totaling forty-one (41) feet, to vary from the required thirty-five (35) foot setback on Fain Street to sixteen (16) feet, and to vary from the required thirty-five (35) foot setback on Jim Lay Drive (formerly Pitts Street) to thirteen (13) feet, for 4.29 acres, at a location of 411 College Street, being parcel C24-078, by First Baptist Church of Calhoun GA. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held July 2nd and the public hearing July 6th.
- B. Mayor Palmer stated that a motion needed to remove from the table an annexation and zoning request from A-1 to C-2, for 1.19 acres, at a location of 117 South Wall Street by Ronnie Holbrook, on behalf of GAH Properties, LLC. The matter was originally tabled indefinitely on July 22, 2019, pending resolution of legal matters between Gordon County and the applicant in Superior Court. While the original application will remain in effect, all required public notices and legal advertisements must be resubmitted in accordance with applicable procedures. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to remove the item from the table. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from A-1 to C-2, for 1.19 acres, at a location of 117 South Wall Street by Ronnie Holbrook, on behalf of GAH Properties, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held July 2nd and the public hearing July 6th.
- D. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from County A-1 to Ind-G, for 7.885 acres at a location of Salem Road (Payne Farm), being part of parcel C46-034, by BCD Law, Attorney for the applicant, PRIII/SREP II, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held July 2nd and the public hearing July 6th.
- E. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from County Agricultural to C-N (Neighborhood Commercial), for 29.04 acres at a location of 1786 Red bud Road, being parcel 055-062, by BCD Law, Attorney for applicant, PRAMUKH 100 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held July 2nd and the public hearing July 6th.
- F. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer and wine package application at a location of 1000 Mauldin Road by Rocket #3. The owner is Timaki Patel and the proposed store manager is Jayant Patel. Eligible for a public hearing July 6th.
- G. Mayor Palmer stated that a motion was needed to reappoint Gary Erwin to the Zoning Advisory Board for a three-year term ending May 31, 2029. Councilmember Edwards made the motion to reappoint Mr. Erwin. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- H. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of City of Calhoun proposed 2026 General Government Fee Resolution. A draft copy is posted on the City of Calhoun's website. Eligible for adoption June 22nd.

- I. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of Calhoun Utilities proposed 2026 Utility Rate Resolution. A draft copy is posted on the City of Calhoun's website. Eligible for adoption June 22nd.
- J. Mayor Palmer read a special event request from the Downtown Development Authority to host the Cornhole ATL Summer League Tournament on Thursday evenings. Proposed dates of play are August 6, August 13, August 20, August 27, September 3, September 10, and September 17, with September 24 designated as a rain date. Tournament play will be conducted within a designated quadrant of the Park Avenue parking lot. To accommodate the event, the affected portion of the parking lot will be closed to vehicular traffic from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. on each scheduled play date. Tournament activities will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Approval of an open-container district within the event area for the duration of each Thursday evening tournament is also requested. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the request as presented. 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
- 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

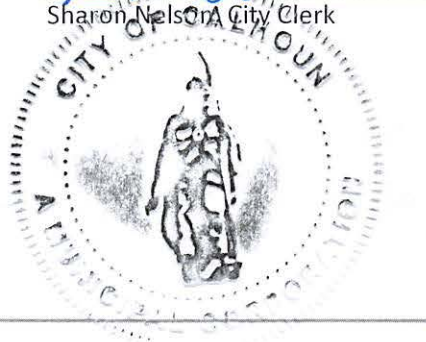
There being no other business to come before the Council, Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk



FINAL BUDGET
CALHOUN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027

	GENERAL FUND	OTHER FUNDS	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS
PROJECTED BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$21,371,132	\$7,237,663	\$3,071,916
ESTIMATED REVENUES			
Local Taxes	\$16,900,000	\$0	\$0
Interest	\$800,000	\$0	\$0
Nurse Funds - Gordon County Comm	\$34,125	\$0	\$0
State Sources	\$31,923,596	\$1,647,000	\$0
Federal Sources	\$0	\$6,805,656	\$0
Other Local Revenues	\$376,088	\$3,460,788	\$4,700,000
Transfers In	\$0	\$1,860,817	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$50,033,809	\$13,774,261	\$4,700,000
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES			
Instruction	\$34,229,628	\$3,347,708	\$0
Pupil Support Services	\$3,445,602	\$2,273,076	\$0
Improvement of Instruction	\$2,425,872	\$908,064	\$0
Instructional Staff Training	\$7,200	\$131,444	\$0
Educational Media Services	\$448,498	\$32,410	\$0
General Administration	\$822,511	\$6,063	\$0
School Administration	\$3,420,691	\$87,163	\$0
Business Office	\$641,509	\$0	\$0
Maintenance & Operations	\$4,039,344	\$0	\$0
School Safety	\$415,235	\$0	\$0
Student Transportation	\$1,686,223	\$30,147	\$0
Central Support Services	\$780,581	\$0	\$0
Other Support Services	\$25,305	\$0	\$0
School Nutrition Services	\$0	\$4,506,212	\$0
School Activity Accounts	\$0	\$50,026	\$0
Community Education Services	\$6,920	\$1,000,521	\$0
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	\$0	\$0	\$6,606,424
Other Outlays/Operating Transfers	\$1,528,279	\$708,738	\$0
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	\$53,923,398	\$13,081,572	\$6,606,424
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(\$3,889,589)	\$692,689	(\$1,906,424)
PROJECTED ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$17,481,543	\$7,930,352	\$1,165,492

The City Council will meet and consider for adoption on June 22nd at 7:00p.m. at The Depot. The Board of Education will meet and consider for adoption on June 22nd at 6:30p.m. at The Depot.

City of Calhoun
2027 Budget Summary
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

	2025 ACTUALS	2026 REVISED BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	% INCREASE (DECREASE)
General Fund				
Revenues				
Property Tax & Intangibles	\$ (4,758,246)	\$ (4,207,900)	\$ (5,558,900)	32%
Franchise Tax	(2,064,446)	(2,385,855)	(2,500,587)	5%
Local Option Sales Tax	(5,481,159)	(5,200,000)	(5,200,000)	0%
Excise Tax	(3,864,960)	(3,406,000)	(3,463,000)	2%
License and Permit	(705,827)	(673,700)	(558,450)	-17%
Intergovernmental	(1,253,071)	(1,555,985)	(1,464,292)	-6%
Charges for Services	(421,933)	(450,876)	(408,501)	-9%
Fines and Forfeitures	(279,348)	(238,850)	(263,756)	10%
Other Local Revenues	(94,983)	(3,138,621)	(3,251,880)	4%
Total Revenues	<u>(18,923,972)</u>	<u>(21,257,787)</u>	<u>(22,669,366)</u>	7%
Expenditures				
Mayor and Council	205,253	544,007	710,566	31%
Elections	-	3,500	-	0%
City Administrator	2,840,549	4,912,438	10,926,767	122%
Tax Administration	109,999	109,994	115,217	5%
General Teller	86,445	89,950	94,256	5%
Human Resources	173,468	219,961	235,250	7%
Risk Management	3,884	4,368	4,500	3%
General Administration	<u>3,419,596</u>	<u>5,884,218</u>	<u>12,086,556</u>	
Municipal Court	335,843	396,401	403,183	2%
Custody of Prisoners	7,493	8,580	15,500	81%
Court Services	<u>343,336</u>	<u>404,981</u>	<u>418,683</u>	3%
Welfare Related	72,246	78,749	79,947	2%
Auditorium	246	280	390	39%
Depot	21,898	24,965	34,554	38%
Community Center	26,297	20,088	23,455	17%
Library	173,293	203,607	185,617	-9%
Community Services	<u>293,980</u>	<u>327,689</u>	<u>323,963</u>	-1%
Regulatory Inspections and Enforcement	576,313	637,744	650,813	2%
Downtown Development	205,083	234,465	304,762	30%
Airport	461,287	387,415	395,405	2%
Community Development	<u>1,242,684</u>	<u>1,259,624</u>	<u>1,350,980</u>	7%

City of Calhoun
2027 Budget Summary
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

	2025 ACTUALS	2026 REVISED BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	% INCREASE (DECREASE)
Police Administration	602,982	624,857	653,388	5%
Detectives	653,322	663,925	841,070	27%
Patrol	4,909,308	5,051,774	5,378,747	6%
Special Operations	453,341	606,406	568,207	-6%
Animal Control Administration	99,994	97,153	-	
Police Department	<u>6,718,947</u>	<u>7,044,115</u>	<u>7,441,412</u>	6%
Fire Administration	362,542	340,579	419,484	23%
Firefighting	4,450,157	4,599,537	4,996,122	9%
Fire Inspection	223,116	253,527	350,600	38%
Fire Training Center	222,616	269,259	284,721	6%
Fire Stations and Buildings	42,012	121,498	221,535	82%
Fire Department	<u>5,300,443</u>	<u>5,584,400</u>	<u>6,272,462</u>	12%
Animal Control	114,555	121,785	204,286	68%
Highways and Streets Administration	124,948	131,135	137,506	5%
Highways and Streets	1,137,132	3,533,060	3,562,674	1%
Street Cleaning	127,057	137,644	143,975	5%
Street Lighting	262,926	302,115	313,339	4%
Traffic Engineering	460,651	594,825	905,874	52%
Maintenance and Parks	672,541	736,945	756,101	3%
Cemetery	470,795	399,575	381,359	-5%
Parks Beautification	3,786	8,005	10,003	25%
Public Works	<u>3,374,391</u>	<u>5,965,089</u>	<u>6,415,117</u>	8%
	<u>20,693,377</u>	<u>26,470,116</u>	<u>34,309,173</u>	30%
Excess of Revenues (Over) Under Expenditures	1,769,405	5,212,329	11,639,807	123%
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Sale of Assets	(199,058.00)	(50,000)	(25,000)	-50%
Unrealized Gain/Losses	(1,331,231)	(780,000)	(720,009)	-8%
Transfers In	(3,879,888)	(449,500)	(687,000)	53%
Appropriation - Fund Balance	-	(3,932,829)	(10,207,798)	
Transfers Out	-	-	-	
	<u>(5,410,177)</u>	<u>(5,212,329)</u>	<u>(11,639,807)</u>	123%
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ (3,640,771)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

**City of Calhoun
2027 Budget Summary
GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

	2025 ACTUALS	2026 REVISED BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	% INCREASE (DECREASE)
Special Revenue Funds				
Recreation Fund				
Revenues	\$ (1,887,977)	\$ (8,922,809)	\$(21,924,481)	146%
Recreation Administration	121,270	127,053	133,455	5%
Participant Recreation	<u>1,881,556</u>	<u>8,795,756</u>	<u>21,791,026</u>	148%
	<u>2,002,826</u>	<u>8,922,809</u>	<u>21,924,481</u>	146%
 Net Change in Fund Balance	 <u>\$ 114,849</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	
 Minor Special Revenue Funds				
<i>(note - 2025 Actuals is the net change in fund balance, 2026 and 2027 amounts are revenues budgeted)</i>				
UDAG Fund	\$ (57,341)	\$ (60,040)	\$ (60,040)	0%
Confiscated Assets	\$ (22,339)	\$ (5,000)	\$ (5,000)	0%
Hotel/Motel Fund	\$ -	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ (1,000,000)	0%
Capital Project Funds				
2018 SPLOST Fund	\$ 281,773	\$ (6,259,984)	\$ (7,111,328)	14%
2024 SPLOST Fund	\$ (2,362,603)	\$ (3,779,933)	\$ (3,850,583)	
Debt Service Funds				
School Debt	\$ 846,024	\$ (6,000,000)	\$ (6,000,000)	0%
Agency Fund				
Municipal Court Fund	\$ -	\$ (425,000)	\$ (425,000)	0%
Solid Waste Fund				
Revenues	\$ (1,208,736)	\$ (1,104,214)	\$ (1,141,377)	3%
Collection	832,289	741,618	903,644	22%
Recycle	203,628	195,461	70,272	-64%
Landfill	63,976	20,286	20,286	0%
Yard Trimmings and Collections	<u>111,157</u>	<u>146,849</u>	<u>147,175</u>	0%
Total Expenditures	<u>1,211,049</u>	<u>1,104,214</u>	<u>1,141,377</u>	3%
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ 2,313</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	
Golf Fund				
Revenues	\$ (1,571,282)	\$ (1,281,050)	\$ (1,817,350)	42%
Maintenance	747,179	798,173	1,260,077	58%
Pro Shop	<u>479,263</u>	<u>482,877</u>	<u>557,273</u>	15%
Total Expenditures	<u>1,226,442</u>	<u>1,281,050</u>	<u>1,817,350</u>	42%
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ (344,839)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

**City of Calhoun
2027 Budget Summary
CALHOUN UTILITIES**

	2025 ACTUAL	2026 REVISED BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	% INCREASE (DECREASE)
WATER & SEWER FUND				
SEWER FUND REVENUE	\$ (8,508,471)	\$ (8,733,136)	\$ (8,445,285)	-3%
Waste Treatment Plant	5,352,339	4,679,261	4,469,761	-4%
Waste Treatment Plant Maintenance	218,337	330,842	298,569	-10%
Waste Treatment - Sludge Disposal/Bio Solids	307,197	388,912	217,194	-44%
Waste Water Collection Maintenance	2,075,041	4,726,515	3,013,550	-36%
Waste Water Collection Lift Stations	183,378	138,820	219,975	58%
Total Sewer Expenses	\$ 8,136,291	10,264,350	8,219,049	-20%
WATER FUND REVENUE				
WATER FUND REVENUE	\$ (20,542,160)	(26,568,492)	(31,516,861)	19%
Brittany Dr. Water Trmt. Plant/Big Springs Intake/Well	3,797,107	5,256,098	7,826,373	49%
Water Plant - Mauldin Rd. & Intakes	6,300,285	7,033,746	10,503,868	49%
Water Treatment Plant - Maintenance	201,370	318,838	299,321	-6%
Water Plant - Distribution/Pump Station	505,340	3,401,970	3,359,103	-1%
Water Distribution/Construction	4,698,209	9,026,626	9,754,432	8%
Total Water Expenses	15,502,310	25,037,278	31,743,097	27%
Change in Net Position	\$ (5,412,030)	\$ -	\$ -	
ELECTRIC FUND				
ELECTRIC REVENUE	\$ (45,680,051)	\$ (43,253,304)	\$ (43,452,802)	0%
Electric - Distribution	39,031,870	42,998,599	42,843,820	0%
Electric - Generator	83,905	254,705	608,982	139%
Total Electric Expense	39,115,775	43,253,304	43,452,802	0%
Change in Net Position	\$ (6,564,276)	\$ -	\$ -	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FUND				
TELECOMMUNICATIONS REVENUE	\$ (1,888,668)	\$ (1,536,280)	\$ (1,336,609)	-13%
Telecom	1,213,424	1,536,280	1,336,609	-13%
Total Telecom Expenses	1,213,424	1,536,280	1,336,609	-13%
Change in Net Position	\$ (675,243)	\$ -	\$ -	
UTILITY INTERNAL SERVICE FUND				
UTILITY INTERNAL SERVICE REVENUE	\$ (4,227,448)	\$ (4,752,868)	\$ (4,847,992)	2%
Administration	518,202	657,821	477,506	-27%
Finance	839,321	957,781	1,067,711	11%
Tellers	170,396	200,643	232,116	16%
Purchasing	189,528	201,425	203,456	1%
Engineering	687,187	865,007	883,865	2%
Work Order Dispatch	151,508	154,077	161,341	5%
GEO Info Service	220,326	266,409	253,012	-5%
Customer Service	277,246	322,325	341,828	6%
Meter Reading	409,841	592,599	623,291	5%
Billing	591,233	534,781	603,866	13%
Total ISF Expense	4,054,790	4,752,868	4,847,992	2%
Change in Net Position	\$ (172,658)	\$ -	\$ -	

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF GORDON
CITY OF CALHOUN

CLOSED MEETING AFFIDAVIT

James F. Palmer, Chair of the City of Calhoun, City Council Meeting, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief:

1.

The City Council of Calhoun, Georgia, met in a duly advertised meeting on, June 8, 2026.

2.

During such meeting, the council voted to go into executive session.

3.

The executive session was called to order at 1:57 pm.

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

Consultation with the city attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the city or any officer or employee or in which the city or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1)

Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and (*insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential*) _____

Discussion or voting on

Authorizing a settlement as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(A)

Authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1) (B)

Authorizing an appraisal as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(C)

Entering a contract for the purchase, disposal of, or lease of property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(D)

Entering into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(E)

Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a city officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)

_____ Interviewing candidates for executive positions as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)

_____ Other (describe the exemption to the open meetings law): _____
_____ as provided in (insert the citation to the legal authority exempting the topic): _____

5.

_____ During the course of the closed session devoted to exempt topics, an incidental remark regarding a non-exempt topic or an attempt to discuss a non-exempt topic was made.

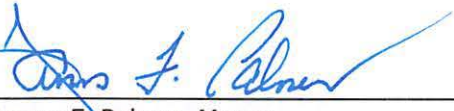
_____ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order and attempts to discuss the same ceased immediately.

_____ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order. However, the comments did not cease, so the closed/executive session was immediately adjourned without discussion or action being taken regarding any non- exempt topic.

6.

Minutes were taken of this meeting in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e)(2)(C) and will be filed and held for inspection by an appropriate court only.

This 8th day of March, 2026.



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of
June, 2024.



Notary Public

My commission expires _____

