

**CITY OF CALHOUN  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM  
109 SOUTH KING ST  
JANUARY 11, 2010 7:00 P.M**

**MINUTES**

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

**ALSO:** Eddie Peterson, City Administrator  
William P. Bailey, City Attorney  
Garry Moss, Police Chief  
Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities  
Michele Taylor, City School Superintendent

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. He also thanked Kevin McEntire and his crews for the outstanding job they did during the recent snow, ice, and freezing weather event on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - a) Rev. Bert Vaughn gave the invocation
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Mayor Palmer asked to amend the agenda to include the State of the City Address under 4 (A). Councilman Crowley made a motion to amend the agenda. The motion was second by Councilman Edwards with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.
4. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the minutes of December 28, 2009 of the regular City Council meeting. The motion was second by Councilman Barton with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.
  - A. Mayor Palmer gave the State of the City Address. (Attached)
5. Mayor Palmer announced the 2010 appointments of City Council members for reporting purposes for various departments of the city as follows:
  - A. Councilman Edwards – Street, Cemetery, Animal Control, Parks, Zoning Advisory Board, Main Street Partnership, Downtown Development Authority, Safety Committee.
  - B. Councilman Barton – Water, Sewer, Water-Sewer Construction, Building Inspections.
  - C. Councilman Crowley – Electric, Telecommunications, Airport, Revolving Loan, School
  - D. Councilman Hammond – Police, Fire, Coosa Valley RDC

6. Mayor Palmer asked for a motion to appoint the Mayor Pro Tem for 2010. Councilman Hammond made a motion to re-appoint Mayor Pro Tem Crowley to be Mayor Pro Tem for 2010. The motion was second by Councilman Edwards with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

7. Mayor Palmer made a recommendation to appoint the following department heads for 2010.

**General Government Division:**

Eddie Peterson – City Administrator/City Clerk  
Director of Finance – Alicia Stewart  
Police Chief – Garry Moss  
Fire Chief - Lenny Nesbitt  
Director of Public Works - Kevin McEntire  
Recreation Director – Ronnie Reeves  
Golf Professional – Eric Stewart  
Superintendent of Maintenance (Golf) - Harold Franklin  
Mainstreet Director – Suzanne Roland

**Utility Division:**

Director of Utilities - Kelly Cornwell  
Director of Finance/Utilities – Andrea Bramlett  
Director of Electric - Larry Vickery  
Director of Telecommunications – Brad Carrick  
Director of Customer Service – Ray Dudkowski  
Director of Water & Sewer - Jerry Crawford  
Manager of Engineering Department – David Burnett  
Superintendent of Water Treatment – Danny Stephens  
Superintendent of Water Construction – Kenneth Logan  
Superintendent of Sewer Treatment – John Banks  
Superintendent of Sewer Construction - Mark Williamson  
Superintendent of Water & Sewer Maintenance – Bobby Robertson

8. Councilman Edwards made a motion to appoint the Bert Vaughn as City Chaplin for 2010. The motion was second by Councilman Hammond with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

9. Councilman Edwards made a motion to appoint William P. Bailey as City Attorney for 2010. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

10. Councilman Hammond made a motion to appoint Suzanne Hutchinson as Municipal Court Judge for 2010. The motion was second by Councilman Barton with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

11. Councilman Barton made a motion to appoint Rebecca Paris as Indigent Defense Attorney for 2010. The motion was second by Councilman Edwards with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

12. Councilman Hammond made a motion to appoint Randy Jackson as Town Marshal for 2010. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

**13. Other comments by Mayor**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the oaths of office for the City School Board of Education to Amy Atkinson for Post 1 and Eddie Hall Post 3. (Exhibit attached)
- B. Mayor Palmer reminded the public and Council of a zoning change request for Pauline O. Davis Revocable Trust for a zoning change from R-2 to C-2 for property located on Curtis Parkway a portion of parcel C52-040. The property is 0.923 acres. Public hearing is March 8, 2010 with a ZAB meeting on March 4, 2010 and a ZRC meeting on February 25, 2010.
- C. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of the upcoming Mayor's Day Training and GMA Conference which will be held January 22-25, 2010 in Atlanta.
- D. Mayor Palmer reminded Council and public of upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations.
  - Walter Harris, chairman for the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, briefed the Mayor and Council on the upcoming events on January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Calhoun.

**14. Council Comments**

A. Councilman Edwards gave the December reports as follows:

**1) Street Department**

- Routine maintenance of street sweeping, bush hogging, picking up brush, and running the leaf-vac truck.
- Placed 5 new street signs
- Completed 7 shop and 12 street department work orders
- Ran storm water maintenance plan on December 8th checking all grates and pipes in the city
- Put out and picked up 310 traffic cones, 25 barricades and trash receptacles for the annual Christmas parade of Lights.
- Cut and removed a tree that had fallen in the roadway on Maplewood Drive.
- Assembled 4 handicap accessible tables to be installed in the pavilion at the 58 acre park.
- Repaired a damaged storm drain pipe on McConnell road.

- Patched pot holes on McDaniel Station Rd and Piedmont St.
- Cleaned out a ditch on Chastain Street that was causing a storm water problem.

## 2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery
- Supervised the opening and closing of 14 grave sites.
- Sold 4 new grave spaces
- Worked 10 grave sites

## 3) Rabies Control

- Housed 26 dogs, and 17 cats.
- Issued 4 warnings leash law violation.
- Answered 43 customer calls

## 4) Parks Department

- The Parks Department grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, books from the library and maintained records at records room.
- Kept up maintenance on all equipment.
- Cleaned City Hall at weekly intervals.
- The building and maintenance crew maintained all City fountains
- Performed routine maintenance on all designated City buildings
- Installed infrared heater at the dog pound.
- Installed electrical outlets at the depot.

## 5) Mainstreet Partnership and Downtown Development Authority

- Calhoun downtown Historic Business District is on the agenda of the Georgia Historic Preservation Commission's January 29, 2010 meeting. GHPC is scheduled to approve the designation of the Calhoun DHBD to the National Register of Historic Places. There will be a public information meeting on Thursday January 14, 2010 at 6:30p.m at the Depot.
- MSP is beginning work on setting the Summer Concert Series schedule and other MSP sponsored events for the community.
- DDA and MSP are awaiting final approval from the GDOT to begin Streetscape Phase III.
- DDA would like to thank Gary Nix, Reed Crook, Chris Bowen, Duston Wilbanks and Brandon Henson for their tireless efforts with the wonderful Christmas lights and decorations. They would also like to thank Mrs. Debbie King and Mrs. Mitzi Hutchinson for the new bows that were placed on the fence at BB&T Park.

## 6) Safety Committee

- Safety topic- Non Powered Hand Tools
- Safety Inspection- Water Plant on December 9th
- Accidents- Workers Comp-0; 1 Vehicle Accident- Police

B. Councilman Barton gave the December reports as follows:

**1) Water Treatment Plant Facility**

- Pumped a total of 301,100,000 gallons of water for a daily average of 9,714,194 million gallons
- The Brittany Drive Treatment Plant produced 38.4% of the City's potable water for the month.

**2) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility**

- Treated a daily average of 8.628 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 8, average suspended effluent of 13, and an average COD of 38

**3) Water Distribution**

- 4 water connection installed
- 8 water connections changed out with new meter
- 59 water leaks repaired
- Responded to 266 utility locate calls
- 16 utility locates called in for work orders
- 39 emergency utility locates called in for repairs
- Responded to 128 miscellaneous calls

**4) Sewer Construction Department**

- Serviced 5 sewer service lines
- Repaired 3 sewer manholes
- TV inspected 1,600 ft of sewer mains
- TV inspected 600 ft of sewer services
- Completed 213 utility locates
- Responded to 8 customer sewer service calls (6 were on the customer's side)
- Opened and inspected 118 manholes
- Cleaned 6,300 ft. sanitary sewer lines
- Continued changing out sewer services on West Side Sewer Project and working to assist contractor doing the project
- Worked on water line from Big Springs site to well site.

**5) Sludge Department**

- Applied 1,792 cubic yards representing 188.6 dry tons of sludge.

**6) Building Inspection Department**

- Issued 25 permits for an estimated cost of \$3,744,078. This included 1 grading permit, 2 new residential, 3 new commercial, 1 commercial remodeling, 2 residential plumbing, 5 commercial electrical, 4 industrial electrical, 5 sign permits, and 1 NOI.

C. Councilman Crowley gave the December reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Long Term Projects under Construction

- The utilities construction crews continue to be supported by electric maintenance personnel as needed to complete all remaining Water Dept. and Waste Treatment plant projects and controls
- Phase II of the System Loss Program for 2008-2009 is progressing. Switched capacitor installations will continue as load begins to recover at Engineered Floors and Shaw Plant 7. The Electric Department has applied jointly with other Georgia cities in acquiring a stimulus based "Smart-Grid" Grant.
- The Padmount transformer Inspection Project by Electric Department personnel is continuing.
- The electric AMR Project is progressing with 4927 residential and single phase demand electric meters and three phase meters set through December 31st. Approximately 200 3-phase meters remain to be set. The shipment of the final meters will not be received until February; electric personnel have requested the manufacturer to expedite this order.

Projects and Maintenance under construction

- The Pole Replacement project for 2009 has resulted in 80 pole replacements.
- Planning and design is underway for the Georgia Northwestern technical College phase III. Construction and design of the campus is being revised. Relocation of multiple utilities will be required.
- The Big Springs electrical project has been started with panel and wiring installation in January. Utility service is anticipated to be installed in January.
- Preliminary Electrical design and engineering is complete and construction is near completion for the Bentley Project (now known as Engineered Flooring) on McDaniel Station Rd. An outdoor campus lighting project is being added and is under construction. The Phase II of this project is under construction by the owners. Phase III is planned for 2010.
- Traffic light at Dews Pond Road and Lovers Lane is in timed operation. Loop actuators are to be installed in to complete the signal project once paving is complete.

- Shaw plants D4 and D5 Electric services have been upgraded with new service entrances requiring transformer change-outs. Work was performed as scheduled during the last two weeks of December. Plant 8 was added to this project and preparations for a return to full operation are slated for March.
- The new Heritage Baptist Church is in the design stage. Pre-construction meeting in January.
- Engineering has begun for DOT upgrade to intersection of Hwy 53 and Hwy 41. DOT estimates are underway.
- Engineering is underway for DOT intersection widening of Red Bud and College Streets. Electric Utility relocation plans have been submitted.
- Engineering has been completed for widening McDaniel Station Rd for addition of DOT traffic signal. Construction started in October with a completion date if spring 2010.
- Engineering continues for changes needed for upgrade of eleven traffic signals throughout the city. This project is delayed until early 2010.
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Work orders in process or completed for November

- Street and security lighting-32
- New business and maintenance-20
- After hours trouble and callouts-14
- City Electrical Maintenance-40
- Meters set-315
- Meter maintenance/replacement-64
- New Customer sets-3
- The Electric System purchased 21,559,656 Kwh's in November

**2) Telecommunications Departments**

- Provisioned new point-to point circuit for Shaw
- Increased Internet bandwidth for two customers from 3 Meg to 6 Meg
- Increased point-to -point bandwidth for Turfstore from 1.5 Meg to 5 Meg
- Moved backup servers to Utility Admin building
- AT & T phone line service restored after 7 hour outage due to copper line break on December 30.
- Updated software on utility billing and financial servers.
- Continued evaluation of Sandvine's network management appliances
- Opened 33 and closed 41 work orders

**3) Geographic Information Systems**

- Completed geo-coding 60% of the water sampling sites
- Continue to enter Electric Department changes from work orders
- Started updating fiber layer with new fiber software developed in-house
- Continue to clean up addressing in GIS and work order systems
- Updated Police department incident information

- Updated water system and hydrant locations for Fire Department
- Continued GIS web development

D. Councilman Hammond gave the December report as follows:

**1) Police Department**

- Made 526 cases with 5 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$41,906.20
- Issued 757 warnings
- Investigated 60 highway accidents, 29 private property accidents
- Provided 99 escorts
- Files 1,463 incident reports
- Responded to 326 alarms
- Patrolled 49,268 miles
- Responded to 5,311 calls for service by E-911

**2) Fire Department**

- Responded to 86 calls for service, 3 fire incidents for damages
- Responded to 1 Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat
- Responded to 53 medical service calls with 38 patients and 0 deaths
- Responded to 5 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 8 miscellaneous service calls, 12 false alarms, 4 good intent, 0 severe weather & natural disaster, and 0 special incident call
- Worked traffic for the Christmas Parade with called in fire fighters
- 11 members attended a vehicle arson class hosted by Dalton Fire Department
- Members worked on required state firefighter core competencies
- Completed all routine duties and training

**3) Fire Inspection Department**

- 124 total reported activities/inspections which included 16 annual inspections, 1 new business inspections, 39 requested inspections, 2 follow-up or re-inspections, 1 burn-site inspections, 2 plan review, 3 sprinkler permit issued, and 60 consultations
- Inspectors attended a vehicle arson class hosted at the Dalton Fire Department
- Both inspectors attended the LEPC meeting
- Worked on required State Firefighter Core Competencies
- Inspector attended North Ga. Code Officials Association meeting
- Lt. Dooley attended the city safety meeting
- Both inspectors filled in on Fire Engines for approximately 40 man hours during the month.

## 15. Public hearings and Comments:

A. Announce at this time, public hearings on zoning matters 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 speaking having filed a financial disclosure statement five days prior to the hearing if required, 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. (\*Reminder – Annexation first and zoning as a second motion)

1) Mayor Palmer read a variance request by Larry Henderson to set up a 12' x55' mobile commercial, industrialized building to be used as a classroom at the airport.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing
- Peterson stated signs on the property, notices to the adjoining property owners and notices to the local legal organ were completed.
- Councilman Edwards stated the Zoning Advisory Board wished to recommend to the Mayor and Council that this request be approved with the stipulations; a temporary modular building may be maintained upon a building site for a period of time not to exceed three years as determined by the Mayor and Council. Extensions year to year of such time may be granted by the Mayor and Council upon application of the owner or lessee of the property upon which the units are installed.
- Mayor Palmer asked if there were any questions/comments
  - Mr. Henderson stated that he understood the requirements for his variance request.
- There were no other comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the variance request with the above stipulations. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

2) Mayor Palmer announced that the variance request by Thane Langille, 220 Dogwood Dr, had been withdrawn.

B. Other public hearings and public comments:

1) Mayor Palmer read a taxi license request by Jose Manuel Lima Alveno D/B/A Taxi Service Emanuel's located at 804 N. Wall Street.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- Mayor Palmer stated all requirements had been met.
- Mayor Palmer asked if there were any questions/comments. There were none.
- The public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the taxi license request. The motion was second by Councilman Edwards with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

#### 16. Old Business

A. Mayor Palmer gave the second and final reading of a Taxi License renewal request for Romualdo Rojo Maritnez for Taxi Latino.

- Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the Taxi license renewal request. The motion was second by Councilman Edwards with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

B. Mayor Palmer gave the second and final reading of a Pawn license renewal request for Clifford Cochran of Pete's Music & Pawn and Tracy Young of Title Max of Calhoun Inc.

- Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the Taxi license renewal request. The motion was second by Councilman Edwards with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

#### 17. New Business

A. Mayor Palmer read a manager change request for Renis Barrett Memorial Home, Inc. d/b/a VFW Post 4376. Prior manager was Edna Talley to current manager Ira L. Rich.

- Councilman Hammond made a motion to accept the manager change request. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of Alcohol License renewals. Second and final reading will be January 25, 2010.

Beer/Wine Package

- ❖ Patsy Colleps for J & P Package

Beer/Liquor Pouring

- ❖ Martin Carranza for Los Gallos De Mexico

Beer/Liquor Pouring in Private Club

- ❖ Renis Barrett Memorial Home DBA: VFW Post 5376

C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of Taxi License renewals. Second and final reading will be January 25, 2010.

- ❖ Olga Moss De Leon for Los Buenos Amigo Taxi

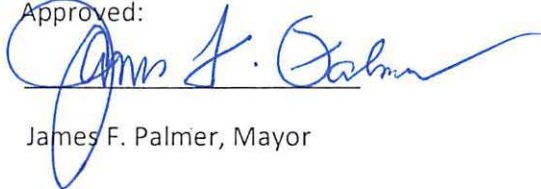
18. Other written items not on the agenda.

19. Work Reports

- a) Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities
- b) Eddie Peterson, City Administrator

20. Councilman Crowley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilman Edwards, with all voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Eddie Peterson, City Administrator

On behalf of myself and the Council I want to say thank you for allowing us to serve. It is an honor and a privilege and we will always do our best to make the decisions that are in the best interest of the City of Calhoun and its citizens. As we begin 2010 we want to welcome Matt Barton and say thank you to Ray Denmon for his 10 years of service.

In 2009, like 2008, the economy continued to struggle and growth remained slow. Building Inspection permits, water taps, sewer taps and utility usage were all down, but even in slow times the work of the city does not stop. We must continue to provide a safe community with utilities and a quality of life we all enjoy.

The Police department successfully wrote and received two grants for \$327,000.00 to hire and support two patrol officers for three years. They also received grants and surplus property valued a \$105,000.00 for equipment and training.

We renewed the agreement for the Safe Streets Task Force with the FBI, ICE and ATF.

Special Ops seized 133 pounds of marijuana and 13,000 counterfeit items.

CID worked 33 fraud white collar crimes with 26 felon arrest; over 700 cases involving theft, aggravated assault have been resolved.

The Fire Department responded to 760 calls, these include fire, rescue, accidents, industrial events, leaks, spills, hazardous material and other property calls.

They gave the safety and prevention presentations to 2,500 children and fire extinguishers and safety classes to 1200 adults.

They finished the GSAR building on Richardson Rd. Calhoun is now the host agency for Northwest Georgia GSAR team.

The department also received a continuation of a GSAR grant for \$40,000.00.

The Mainstreet Program brought thousands downtown with special events and four quality concerts in the park.

We completed Phase II. of streetscape and received notification of a \$250,000.00 grant award for Phase III. This will be for the East side of 41 and we are currently working on the design.

Recreation programs remained strong in participation levels. They placed 24 youth All-star teams in the district and had 5 teams finish 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State Tournaments.

The Public Works Department applied for and received a \$90,000.00 grant for thermal stripping and new signs to make our streets safer.

They cut, based and patched 230 utility cuts and potholes, completed the Pine St. widening and signal project at the Middle School. They are 85% complete with the intersection project at Lovers Lane and Dews Pond Rd. and paved 3 miles of city streets.

We are pleased to have received the Georgia Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The Utility Department has completed Phase I. of the AMR Project and has begun Phase II. This is being done with the aid of a \$900,000.00 grant.

The Big Spring Project is 90% complete. The Belmont Creek Replacement and Sewer Project were completed with the replacement of 4,000 feet of old lines and the addition of 2,500 feet of new line.

The Electric Department added 8 mega watts of new load and 7 mega watts of reconnected load.

They replaced 80 damaged dilapidated poles and sent employees to assist in restoring power during the Kentucky ice storms.

We continue to work as a Signature Community for the redevelopment of West Calhoun where the CDBG project is 75% complete. This project is being done with the aid of an \$800,000.00 grant and will replace some of the oldest water and sewer lines in the city.

We removed 3 dilapidated structures from King St., McConnell Rd. and MLK Dr. and worked on the West Calhoun Urban Redevelopment requirements for rehab projects.

As we move forward in 2010, every department has reduced operational cost and delayed all capital purchases.

We have gone into reserves for the past two years. The General Fund Budget has been reduced by \$1,500,000.00 and the Utility Budget by \$3,932,217.00.

We have 40 fewer employees than 2 ½ years ago and all departments heads and salaried employees have taken reductions in pay.

We are proud of the accomplishments of 2009 and will meet the challenges of 2010.

We will continue to seek improvements and stress long range planning while we remain dedicated to providing the best service at the least possible cost.

OATH OF OFFICE  
CITY SCHOOL BOARD

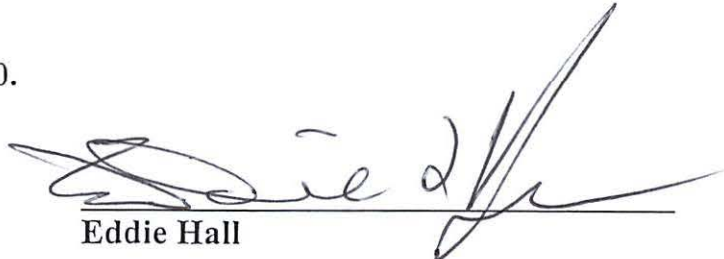
"I, Amy Atkinson, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly perform to the best of my abilities the duties of Calhoun Board of Education Member, Post 1, by adopting and enforcing such measures as in my judgment shall be best calculated to promote the educational needs of the inhabitants of the City of Calhoun and the common interest thereof."

This, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Atkinson

I, Eddie Hall, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly perform to the best of my abilities the duties of Calhoun Board of Education Member, Post 3, by adopting and enforcing such measures as in my judgment shall be best calculated to promote the educational needs of the inhabitants of the City of Calhoun and the common interest thereof."

This, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010.

  
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Eddie Hall