

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
APRIL 8, 2013 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; Paul Worley, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney, Garry Moss, Chief of Police, Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director, Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities, Chuck Poarch, Fire Battalion Chief; David Howerin, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- 1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.**
 - A. Mayor Palmer gave the invocation.**
- 2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.**
- 3. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Crowley seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.**
- 4. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2013 City Council Meeting. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the March 25, 2013 City Council Meeting. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
- 5. Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer stated that there will be a budget work session April 22, 2013 after the regular City Council meeting which starts at 7:00 P.M. The meeting will be held at the Depot Community Room, 109 South King Street. No official action will take place, however the public is notified and invited to attend.**
- 6. Council Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer gave the March reports as follows:**
 - 1) Police Department**
 - o Made 674 cases with 15 DUI's**
 - o Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$68,709.40**
 - o Issued 766 warnings**

- Investigated 57 highway accidents, 29 private property accidents
- Provided 90 escorts
- 1,516 incident reports
- Responded to 683 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 52,161
- Responded to 5,201 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 449
- Court cases dropped- 90
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 267
- Number of Probation cases- 47
- Probation Payments- \$14,134.00
- Probation Revocations- 11
- Failure to appear- 45
- Prisoner transports- 19

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Mayor Palmer stated that the Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) crew responded to the Plant Bowen explosion in Cartersville.
- Responded to 143 calls for service for the suppression division, 8 fire incidents for damages (\$3,100 in estimated fire damage)
- Responded to 101 medical service calls
- Responded to 5 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 10 false alarms or false calls, 16 good intent
- Members of the department are completing work on the rehab shelter and finish work on the training tower.

Training Division

- Department completed 560 man hours of training.
- The training tower construction project should be completed soon. The first practice burn is being scheduled for sometime around April 15th.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 85 total reported activities/inspections which included 15 annual inspections, 18 requested inspections, 16 follow-up or re-inspections, and 30 consultations

5) Downtown Development Authority

- The DDA, with the help of some Calhoun Utilities manpower, is in the process of putting up new lamp post banners downtown. These should be completed by this week, just in time for spring. The four photos of our City's downtown landmarks, which were used on the banners, were donated by downtown business, Andy Baxter Photography.

- The DDA office anticipates closing on the Cherokee Mill Lofts property acquisition within the next 30 days. We are steadily moving forward with this exciting project.

B. Councilman Barton gave the March as follows:

1) **Street Department**

- Completed 19 shop and 20 street department work orders.
- Placed 4 new street signs.
- Repaired catch basins and storm drains on Park Avenue, McDaniel Station, and 6th Street.
- Repaired washouts on Recreation walking trails and mountain bike trail.

2) **Cemetery Department**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 7 grave sites.
- Sold 8 new grave spaces.
- Worked 7 grave sites.

3) **Rabies Control**

- Housed 24 dogs, and 13 cats
- Issued 6 warning
- Answered 56 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.
- Mowed and weedeated approximately 19 miles of sidewalk, 29 islands, and 42 other designated places in the City.
- The building and maintenance crew performed routine maintenance on designed city buildings and all fountains.
- Began restoring old mail cart at the Depot.

5) **Safety Committee**

- Safety topic- temporary traffic control zones
- Safety Inspection- Street Department
- Accidents: Vehicle Accident-1- Water/Sewer Plant Maintenance
- Workers Comp: 0

6) **Recreation Department**

- **Spring Baseball – Softball** – Registration for the Spring baseball and softball programs: 550 Recreation participants – Baseball and Softball – 45 teams in Recreation League 56 Competitive Baseball participants – 5 teams in Competitive League 27 teams – Adult Softball including – Men’s Open League; Men’s Church/Industrial and Women’s Open

- **United Way** – The 2013 Allocation report has been submitted. Our agency will be reviewed for United Way allocations between April 11 and May 10, 2013.
- **2013 TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS: SCHEDULED TO DATE –**
 - **OPENING DAY – YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL** – April 6, 2013
 - **ASA Georgia Association Berth Tournament – 14 and under Girls** – April 19 – 21, 2013
 - **ASA Hall of Fame Qualifier – 10 and under and 12 and under Girls** – April 19-21, 2013
 - **USTA JR. TENNIS TOURNAMENT – Level 5 Singles-** May 4- 5, 2013
 - **ASA State Championships – 10A and 18A** – July 12- 14, 2013
 - **USTA JR. TENNIS TOURNAMENT – Level 4 – Singles and Doubles** – September 20 – 22, 2013
 - **USTA JR. TENNIS TOURNAMENT – Level 5 – Singles** – November 2- 3, 2013
 - **GRPA State Championships – 9-10 Tackle Football** – December 7; December 14-15, 2013

C. Councilman Crowley gave the March report as follows:

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

- The Brittany Drive Expansion Project- Construction of the filter structures, walls for the pipe gallery and roof are complete. Pipe gallery installation is underway.
- Water and Sewer relocation for the Union Grove Interchange has begun and is approximately 90% complete. Minor items remaining are being coordinated with the grading contractor.
- Engineering design for the wholesale connection with Floyd County has been completed. Meter pit installation has been completed. Floyd County is installing new mains in the area.
- SR 136 and I-75 GDOT water main relocation- project is under construction and is approximately 98% complete.
- King Street and Pine Street replacement sewers are in design.
- Streetscape IV water and sewer relocation are in design.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 279,370,000
- Daily average: 9,011,935
- Wells: 0
- Big Springs: 122,650,000
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 43.9
- Rainfall- 5.43"

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 6.180 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 6, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 54.

4) Water Distribution

- 5 Water connections, 10 water service leaks repaired, 19 water main leaks repaired, 1,100 ft water line layed, 187 water meter changed for testing or oldest meters in system, 17 calls to patch roads or repair yards, 55 utility locates called in for work orders, 329 utility locates responded to, and 68 misc. calls
- Continued work on 2" line replacement and service line replacement on McDaniel Station Road and Poplar Drive area
- Continued work on I-75 and Hwy 136 interchange

5) Waste Water Collection

- 2,200' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 221 utility locates completed, 2 lift station repairs completed, 7,100' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 105 manholes opened and inspected

6) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 24 permits for an estimated cost of \$322,578.00 and collected \$5,038.00 in permit fees. This included 1 new residential, 2 commercial remodeling, 2 industrial additions, 2 residential HVAC, 4 commercial HVAC, 4 residential electrical, 2 industrial electrical, 3 sign permits, and 66 total inspections.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the March report as follows:

1) Electric Department

- Construction has begun on the Apache Mills Expansion
- Electrical Engineering continues on Streetscape Phase # 4
- Electrical Engineering continues on power requirements for the April 26th Downtown BBQ Boogie and Blues
- Electrical Engineering continues on the VAC renovation
- Electrical Engineering continues on the new Gordon County Agriculture Center with completion of the lighting plan
- Electrical Engineering continues on the Library expansion with completion of the parking lot lighting plan

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 134
- Completed and closed- 95
Consisting of:
 - Street and security lighting-63
 - Distribution Maintenance-35
 - Meter maintenance/replacement- 56
 - New customer meter sets- 11
 - Monthly total system locate tickets processed- 173

Electric System supplied – 36,450,084 kwh in March

New March record. This is up 4% from 2012 which was the previous March record.

The City of Calhoun is one of 184 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities to earn Reliable Public Power Provider (RP₃[®])¹ recognition from the American Public Power Association for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. The Council and Mayor congratulated the Electric Department for achieving this great honor.

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Ordered new phone equipment and reorganized central office for installation.
- Finished permanent fiber cut repair on Wrights Hollow Road.
- Installed new 20 Meg point-to-point circuit
- Updated Firehouse software on all Fire Department computers.
- Installed new firewall to replace 15 year old firewall.
- Finished splicing fiber to support new High School.
- Added 20 Meg of Internet to existing customers.
- Disconnected one 100 Meg point-to-point.
- Opened 18 and closed 14 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Worked with Fire Department updated pre-fire plans.
- Continue to assist Electric Department with phase tracing for each substation circuit.
- Continue to clean ups water data connecting hydrants to valves and main lines.
- Continue to add and update utility easement data.
- Assisted Engineering with wastewater inflow/infiltration project.
- Updated addresses from changes in billing account data
- Updated City and GIS websites

4) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- Councilman Hammond discussed that the Regional Commission oversees 15 counties in Northwest Georgia that helps to reallocate federal dollars to various programs that benefit the citizens such as meals on wheels, work force training, and community planning. Senior planner David Howerin was in attendance for the community work program update.

6) Airport

- Tom B. David Airport is the fourth largest land based airport in the state of Georgia. A new taxiway project totaling \$3,260,000 is underway.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

A. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing on the comprehensive plan community work program update. The City of Calhoun is updating the Five Year Community Work Program which is included within the Calhoun Comprehensive Plan 2007-2027. The Five Year Work Program update is required and will be prepared according to the rules promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, which are effective on January 1, 2013. Mayor Palmer asked for public comments on the following:

- City of Calhoun Report of Accomplishments regarding the previous Five Year Short Term Work Program 2007-2011
- City of Calhoun Character Areas
- City of Calhoun Issues and Opportunities
- City of Calhoun Community Work Program 2013-2017

Administrator Peterson presentation concerning the community work program update:

Local governments are required to plan for the future in their 20 year comprehensive plans and in 5 year increments called the Community Work Program which previously called the Short Term Work Program. This year is Calhoun and Gordon County's time to update the Community Work Program for the years 2013 through 2017. The first required public hearing was held on January 15, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. at the Gordon County Administration Building. This meeting was to let everyone know what was required for the updating process. The second required meeting for Calhoun was the Stakeholders meeting, which was held on March 11, 2013 at 12:00pm, at the City of Calhoun utilities conference room. That meeting was attended by 20 stakeholders, which included the Mayor/Council, Department Heads, and other interested parties. For the past 3 weeks Calhoun has been advertising, in the Calhoun Times, and on our Calhoun Website, the second public hearing.

The first document to review is the 2007-2011 Short Term Work Program. This includes areas of Economic Development, Housing, Community Facilities, Transportation, Natural and Cultural Resources, Land Use, Intergovernmental Coordination, and General Planning.

Overall several activities were completed such as the CDBG for West Side, a Vacant & Dilapidated Structure Inventory was established, Phase III of Georgia Northwestern Technical College was completed, Calhoun became a certified Georgia Initiative for Community Housing City, and 13 dilapidated houses were razed. The City continues to develop the 58 acre recreation complex. The Tennis Center was completed. A regulation football field with grandstands was built. And a 1.5 mile pedestrian trail was paved. Utilities has replaced several major sewer mains and the Automatic Meter Reading water project is complete. Streetscape Phase II and III were completed. A new 27 car police fleet was purchased and paid for during the 5 year period. A pedestrian connector bridge was constructed over the Oothcalooga Creek to connect the River Street Rec and the 58 acre recreation site. A four mile mountain bike trail was constructed off of Kirby Road with volunteer and city forces. The Fire department purchased a \$700,000 aerial platform truck and a \$393,000 pumper truck to replace older equipment. The Calhoun Fire department was named the Northwest Georgia GSAR headquarter with a \$1.2 million dollar vehicle assigned to Calhoun after completion of a \$250,000 building. Utilities

completed over \$25,000,000 in projects; including Automatic Meter Reading, Big Springs Projects, several major water and sewer expansions and replacements, and upgrades to overhead and underground primary conductors. And a \$45 million dollar school project was approved by the citizens.

The McDaniel Station and SR53 signaled intersection was completed. Improved the intersections, with signals and turn lanes at Dews Pond/Curtis Parkway, Dews Pond/Lovers Lane, Curtis Parkway/Laurel Creek, and River Street / Pine Street.

Downtown Calhoun was designated as a historic district and Calhoun as a Main Street city was re-certified by the National Main Street organization.

These were some of our 2007 - 2011 short term goals. Most have been completed and others are continuations such as resurfacing streets, upgrades to water, sewer, electrical, and telecommunications infrastructure. We also evaluate and update operations, maintenance, and capital needs on a yearly basis.

While the recession was just as difficult on Calhoun as any other area in Georgia, we were able to make progress in many areas. We streamlined our maintenance and operation while continuing to deliver the necessary services to the community. As we are coming out of the recession though it's time to play catch up on infrastructure improvements, system repairs, capital purchases, and operational strategies.

Another required area of consideration is the Calhoun Character Areas:

In the River Corridor and Floodplain Preserve very little has happened as far as request for any type of development, especially since the recession began in 2007. We have increased public accessibility for passive recreation at the 58 acre site on the Oothcalooga Creek, and we continue to make certain recreational improvements along the River Park. Our building inspection department is trained in flood plain management and assists those interested in Best Management Practices.

Rural and Agricultural Reserve: Again, since the recession very little has changed with annexation and disturbing the rural and agricultural buffer that surrounds Calhoun.

Historic Downtown: With three Streetscapes under our belt and a fourth on the way downtown is more pedestrian friendly and business healthy. Downtown is a focal point for daily and evening business and activities. I think it is fair say that downtown is healthy and continues to provide that unique experience of small town USA.

West Calhoun: With the recent completion of a CDBG, West side infrastructure has make strong gains in water and sewer service. Streets have been resurfaced, sidewalks repaired, and drainage has been improved. Calhoun now partners with Habitat and we will see houses constructed for the next several years.

In Town Neighborhood: With the convenience of living in downtown, a vital system of sidewalks, a substantial tree canopy, and community support for maintaining historical structures...in town Calhoun continues to fill the need of its residents.

Other parts of the Character Area include: Early subdivision (Hunts Drive Area), Emerging Suburban, Neighborhood Commercial, Red Bud Road Corridor, Dews Pond Corridor, Mauldin Road Mix, Dixie Highway Corridor, Highway 41 north and south, Highway 53 east and west, Interstate commercial, Industrial, and Peters Street Residential. By the time we update our next five year work program Peters Street will see; curb/gutter, storm water piping, sidewalks, and street profile improvements. This will increase property values and usability of this early residential area.

If one looks at our Character Areas it reflects growth during the past 60-70 years. While much of the early growth was incoherent, today and for the past 30 years our growth has been monitored by building inspectors and other key staff, zoning board members, the Mayor and Council, and a healthy interest from our residents and property owners. As development continues to recover, Calhoun is poised to remain a strong core community with enough oversight that we maintain our best Character areas and strengthen our livability and quality of life.

Transportation drives land use. When Calhoun was getting started in the 1840's the L&N railroad dictated where the town would be and the shape of Calhoun. The next transportation driver was SR 41 and some of the other state routes over a 20 to 30 year period. In the mid 1960's it was I-75 and the exchanges. For the past 40 years due to environmental concerns sewer has been a driver of land use. The will probably continue the next 40 years as Calhoun works into various drainage basins.

The final item is our DRAFT 2013-2017 Community Work Program. If you review the document we use the same general heading and have updated projects, goals, and requirements.

Calhoun is also a member of the Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Planning Council. Kelly Cornwell and Sam Payne represent Calhoun and Gordon County on this council. Calhoun is aware of and supports the goals of the Regional Plan.

Calhoun also is aware of and adheres to Chapter 391-3-16 Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria; water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands protection, and river corridor protection.

- Roberta Charbonneau with Family Connections and Kayla Kaufman with Prevent Child Abuse Gordon County made suggestions concerning the Community Work Program dealing with senior citizens and child abuse issues at the noon work session.
- Dan McBee of 315 Fain Street with the New Echota Rivers Alliance (NERA) spoke about recreational opportunities and made suggestions that the City should examine during the work program update process. Mr. McBee also inquired about hotel/motel revenues and their use to promote tourism.

B. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for a beer and wine package license request for Stephen Moore DBA: CVS Pharmacy, LLC #4506 at a location of 402 North Wall Street.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.

- Mayor Palmer asked if there were any comments from the applicant or the public. There were no comments.
- Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing.
- Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the beer and wine package license request. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

8. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a beer and wine package request by Medhat Karout DBA: Sam's Mart #530 at a location of 943 Hwy 53, SE. The public hearing will be on April 22nd.
- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a taxicab certificate of operation request for Susan Wise, owner, D/B/A: Calhoun Cab at a location of 367 Richardson Road. The public hearing will be on April 22nd.
- C. Councilman Barton made a motion to remove the proposed road dedication of Cornerstone Way from the table. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Mayor Palmer stated that the road has been inspected by Public Works Director Kevin McEntire. The road currently meets City road specifications. The acceptance of the road dedication is contingent upon the production of a valid warranty deed transferring title to the City, and satisfaction of any outstanding tax obligations for said land by the grantor. Councilman Barton made a motion to accept Cornerstone Way under the stated conditions. Councilman Hammond gave a second and Councilman Barton, Hammond, and Edwards voted yes. Councilman Crowley abstained due to a financial interest. Motion passed.

9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of the updated 2013 City of Calhoun Zoning Map. Councilman Edwards made a motion to set the public hearing for May 13th to allow for proper zoning procedure and advertising. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of an annexation and zoning of R-1B for 1.39 acres at a location of 118 Spencer Drive for Wesley and Christy Brown. The ZAB meeting will be on June 6th and the public hearing will be on June 10th.
- C. Mayor Palmer asked that the first reading of a Knox Box ordinance for rapid entry key system requirements be tabled to allow the Fire Chief to review the current draft. Councilman Hammond made a motion to table the Knox Box ordinance. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. General Manager Vickery reviewed a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Sewer System proposal. Mayor Palmer stated that the council would review the proposal.
- E. General Manager Vickery discussed revisions to the Calhoun Utilities adjustment policy. The policy has been updated to unify policies and procedures among all utility departments. Mayor and Council will also review the updated policy.


10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

- A. City Administrator Peterson
- B. General Manager Vickery
- C. City Attorney Govignon


12. Councilman Hammond made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barton with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk