

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Paul Worley, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Dwight Albritton, Airport Director; Dr. Michele Taylor, Calhoun City Schools Superintendent; Tony Swink, Rhoda Washington, and Eddie Reeves with the Calhoun Board of Education

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
 - A. Councilman Crowley gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Mayor Palmer stated that he would like to move item B. under new business to Mayor's Comments. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the amended agenda, Councilman Crowley seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2015 City Council meeting. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer made the following election announcement: There will be an Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) referendum on the November 3, 2015 ballot. This will be for both Gordon County and City school systems. Mayor Palmer encouraged everyone to review the ESPLOST referendum as it is very important for our local schools. Also, the City of Calhoun candidates for the November 3, 2015 general municipal election:
 - Mayor- James F. Palmer, incumbent; Mary Mays
 - Calhoun City Council Post #1- George Crowley, incumbent; Jackie Palazzolo
 - Calhoun City Council Post #2- Al Edwards, incumbent- unopposed
 - Calhoun City School Board Post #4- Eddie Reeves, incumbent- unopposed
 - Calhoun City School Board Post #5- Tony Swink, incumbent- unopposed

6. Council Comments:

A. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the August report as follows:

1) Electric Department

- The Bad Pole Replacement program continues on South 41 and Richardson Road.
- Electrical Engineering has begun on the new Goodwill of North Georgia. This is a renovation of 29,850 Sq. Ft of Mid-Town Square, located at 261 Hwy 53 East.
- Electrical Engineering has begun for the new Atlanta Oral Surgery on Professional Court.
- The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for August was 43,955,051 kWh.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 142
- Completed and closed- 113
- Consisting of:
 - Capital construction- 7
 - Street and security lighting-58
 - Distribution Maintenance-30
 - Meter maintenance/replacement- 24
 - New customer meter sets- 6
 - Electric locate tickets processed- 247

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Connected two new internet customers and one new point-to-point circuit.
- Disconnected one internet customer.
- Added 130 megabits of internet bandwidth to existing customers.
- Renewed SSL certificates for secure web mail and mobility connections.
- Received new OTDR fiber test equipment and department training.
- Coordinated installation and testing of NorthStar software maintenance release.
- Programmed Calhoun/Gordon County Library phone system for Labor Day Holiday closure.
- Worked with server vendors to upgrade host software and develop steps to recover server operations in the event the servers at the CO are not available.
- Completed 12 pole transfers.
- Installed two new servers for GIS department.
- Opened 23 and closed 21 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Setup training software for water model training.
- Updated water meter mapping and meter information.
- Provided additional training for GIS in Electric Department
- Updated pre-fire plans for Fire Department

- Added fire hydrant data to new mobile 911 application
- Updated fiber map for Telecom Department.
- Updated City and GIS websites.

4) Downtown Development Authority

- The DDA and HPC held regular monthly meetings. The DDA director attended the Main Street 101 conference; Historic Preservation regional meeting; Chamber of Commerce Booster Breakfast at Georgia Northwestern Technical College; a CVB/Tourism Committee Meeting; a Small Business Development/Marketing meeting; and a Young Professionals meeting.
- The planning for the annual Harvest Fest in downtown is underway. The date is set for October 24th from 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. The Farmer's Market is still being held on Monday's from 10-2 at the Depot. It will continue until the end of September. The DDA and HPC encouraged our citizens to help us keep downtown clean and safe.

B. Councilman Barton gave the August report as follows:

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

- Clarifier Mechanism Replacement Project- Project is complete and awaiting start up.
- 2" Galvanized Line Replacement Project- Project is nearing completion on the first project area off Newtown Road and the second project area in the Hunts Subdivision has begun.
- Flocculation and Sedimentation Control Project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant- The work on basin No. 1, 2, and 4 is complete and basin No. 3 is underway.
- The new bar screens at the Wastewater Treatment Plant arrived August 24th and are in operation.
- Peters Street Water and Sewer Relocation- Construction is scheduled to begin in late September.
- Floyd County is nearing the connection point with our water system on Hwy 53 West.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 336,860,000
- Daily average: 10,866,452
- Wells: 145,200,000
- Big Springs: 0
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 43.1
- Rainfall- 6.40"
- Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 37.2%
- Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 34.3%
- The bacteria laboratory tested 100 routine samples and 9 special samples from the "City's" distribution system, 10 samples for the City of

Adairsville, and 12 samples for J and J & J Water. Also, five private well samples were tested.

- The laboratory staff responded to and resolved 2 water quality complaints and collected four TTHM and HAA samples, 2 cryptosporidium samples, 2 TOC samples, 2 NPDES quality samples, and four Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 samples.
- Operator Harold Cronon celebrated his 16th year of service with the Water Treatment Dept.
- Operator Todd Wylie celebrated his 8th year of service with the Water Treatment Dept.

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 4.377 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 3, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 55.

4) Water Distribution

- 18 Water connections, 54 water service leaks repaired, 29 water main leaks repaired, 39 water meters changed out/maintenance, 7 yards or roadway edges repaired due to previous work, 46 utility locates called in for work orders, 473 utility locates responded to, and 83 misc. calls
- Completed installing 1,120' of 8" ductile iron pipe along Newtown Church Road to replace old 2" galvanized line.
- Completed installing 900' of 8" ductile iron pipe along Greeson Road to catch new water connections.

5) Waste Water Collection

- 1,650' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 327 utility locates completed, 2 lift station repairs completed, 6,200' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 76 manholes opened and inspected, 2 new sanitary sewer connections, 7 sanitary sewer services repaired

6) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 30 permits for an estimated cost of \$2,431,075, collected \$10,468 in permit fees. This included 0 new residential, 1 new commercial, 4 commercial remodels, 5 sign permits, and 30 total inspections.

7) Recreation Department

- **PARK EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE** –August 7 – Meeting with BWSC representatives, Eddie Peterson, Paul Worley and all department heads involved with park expansion project. August 10 – Council approved BWSC to begin work on Phase One of park expansion. August 17 - surveyors began on project. September 1 - met with BWSC representatives and Don McGinnis to discuss permitting of project.
- **SWIM** – Pool was closed on August 7th for public swim. Pool parties were scheduled for weekends during the month. A total of 11 pool parties were held.

- **FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION** – Registration for Football, Cheerleading, and Soccer concluded in August. Registration Numbers:
 - Football – 337 participants
 - Cheerleading – 67 participants
 - Soccer -398 – participants
 - Competitive Soccer – 32 participants
 - Youth Soccer Opening Day – September 11
 - Youth Football Opening Day – September 14
- The recreation Advisory Board met on August 12th and approved a zero tolerance policy. Signage for zero tolerance are being placed in all parks and facilities.

C. Councilman Crowley gave the August report as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 566 cases with 4 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$40,084
- Issued 778 warnings
- Investigated 68 highway accidents, 33 private property accidents
- Provided 82 escorts
- 1,491 incident reports
- Responded to 285 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 52,033
- Responded to 4,928 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 441
- Court cases dropped- 97
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 279
- Number of Probation cases- 31
- Probation Payments- \$18,585
- Probation Revocations- 3
- Failure to appear- 48
- Prisoner transports- 32

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Responded to 189 calls for service for the suppression division, 2 fire incidents for damages. (\$60,250 in estimated fire damage)
- Responded to 116 medical service calls
- Responded to 12 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 34 false alarms or false calls, 18 good intent
- Assisted with the annual mud volleyball tournament at the Recreation Center.
- Assisted inspections with fire extinguisher class and fire drills at schools.

Training Division

- Department completed 748 hours of training.

- Training consisted of apparatus driver, operator training, GSAR confined spaces, Pre-fire Incident reporting class, and state required core skills.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 143 total reported activities/inspections which included 36 annual inspections, 4 new business inspections, 36 requested inspections, 28 follow-up or re-inspections, and 32 consultations
- Inspectors attended the Fire Extinguisher training at Bostick Industries.
- Inspectors conducted fire drills at local schools.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the August report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Completed 18 shop and 14 street department work orders.
- Installed 12 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Built a catch basin and installed 40 feet of storm drain on McConnell Road.
- Mulched trees at the Recreation Department.
- Repaired a storm drain on College Street.
- Repaired pot holes and utility cuts using 60 tons of asphalt.
- Councilman Hammond discussed the Peters Street Project to be funded by SPLOST dollars. The project will make Peters Street safer for automobile and pedestrian traffic by widening the road, curb and gutter, and sidewalks. The 2011 SPLOST project is jointly funded by Gordon County and the City with the approval of the SPLOST referendum approved by the voters. The City has finished the improvements to Linda Lane and East May Street which has greatly helped traffic flows at the Primary and Elementary Schools. There will be a round-about at the intersection of Peters Street and East May in phase one. The entire project will include all of Peters Street from S. Wall Street to Curtis Parkway. This project will have a tremendous impact over the next 50 years as it will be a major entryway into the community and a great asset.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 5 grave sites.
- Sold 9 new grave spaces.

3) Animal Control

- Housed 36 dogs, and 23 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 9
- Number of cats adopted: 2
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 5
- Number of dogs euthanized: 3
- Number of cats euthanized: 8
- Number of warnings given: 16

- Number of bite cases: 2
- Citations issues: 2
- Number of inquiries: 72
- Councilman Hammond stated that the City has made new investments in the Animal Control Department and is seeing positive results. There is a recently expanded Animal Control Center to help expand kennel space for dogs and cats. There is also a viewing area for those wanting to adopt pets. With the current leadership, Animal Control is working hard and doing a tremendous job to be a low kill shelter and with the community's help we can greatly reduce the euthanization of animals. For more information you can find us on Facebook at City of Calhoun Animal Control for adoption and volunteer opportunities.

4) Parks Department

- The Parks Department grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
- Mowed and weeded 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.

5) Safety Committee

- Safety topic- Proper use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- Safety Inspection- Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Vehicle Accidents: 0
- Workers Compensation: 1- Police, 1- Cemetery

6) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- Councilman Hammond discussed that the Regional Commission (RC) oversees 15 counties and 51 cities in Northwest Georgia that helps to reallocate federal dollars to various programs that benefit the citizens such as meals on wheels, workforce training, community planning, area on aging, and community and economic development.
- Councilman Hammond discussed that Northwest Georgia has been designated as one of the first 8 areas through the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Program.
- Councilman Hammond stated that Gordon County's unemployment rate is now 6.4% and the State's is at 6.0%. The regional unemployment rate is 6.6%. This is the first time in five years that Gordon County's unemployment rate is lower than the regional rate.

7) Tom B. David Airport

- The airport is the 7th largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia. The airport has a 6,000 foot runway and is home to the Life Force helicopter. Also, the airport has received a \$3.1 million dollar Federal grant to build a taxiway that will enable the airport to handle more traffic in and out. Finally, there is a 12,000 square foot maintenance facility proposed project to provide 24 hour maintenance.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

A. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a beer and wine package license request by Leslie Renfro, DBA: Circle K #2723519 at a location of 702 E. Highway 53.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.
- There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the license request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

B. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a beer and wine package license request by Leslie Renfro, DBA: Circle K #2723519 at a location of 702 E. Highway 53.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.
- There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the license request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

C. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for an annexation and zoning of C-2 for 0.8 acres at a location of parcel #GC51-111 on Kent Lane for Haley Stephens.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards stated that the Zoning Advisory Board met on September 10th and recommended that the annexation and zoning request be denied as presented.
- Mayor Palmer asked for comments from the applicant or their representative. There was no response.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.
- Ginger House, 122 Derby Lane, spoke in opposition to the annexation and zoning request. Mrs. House stated that she has received about 97% of all Devonwood residence signatures on a petition opposing the request and she spoke for many residents in attendance at the meeting. The petition signed states that the granting of the annexation as C-2 and the rezoning request of C-2 would significantly change the nature and character of the neighborhood and would allow for the encroachment into the neighborhood of commercial development. Neither the roads nor the drainage and sewer systems in this area are equipped to handle commercial traffic and water run-off from commercial facilities. Furthermore, the traffic increase would fundamentally change the neighborhood and would greatly impair the quiet enjoyment of their property. This area has been a residential neighborhood for over 40 years and the residents want it to stay residential.

- There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Barton made a motion to deny the annexation and zoning request as presented. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

D. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a zoning change request of R-1 to C-2 for 1.72 acres at a location of parcel #C52-001 on Kent Lane for Haley Stephens.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards stated that the Zoning Advisory Board met on September 10th and recommended that the zoning change request be denied.
- Mayor Palmer asked for comments from the applicant or their representative. There was no response.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments.
- Joyce Silvers, 125 Derby Lane, spoke in opposition to the request.
- There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Edwards made a motion to deny the C-2 zoning request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

8. **Old Business:** None

9. **New Business:**

- A. Mayor Palmer stated that the City of Calhoun and Calhoun City Schools needed to set the millage rate for 2015. The City of Calhoun current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years, and the announcement of the meeting date for the millage rate setting was advertised in the Calhoun Times on August 29, September 2, 5, 9, and 12. The City of Calhoun is proposing to keep the millage rate the same as last year at 1.98. Calhoun City Schools are proposing a millage rate the same as last year at 17.985. Dr. Taylor, Calhoun City Schools Superintendent, stated that the City School Board met preceding this Council meeting and approved the proposed millage rate. Dr. Taylor thanked the Council and community for their support and they are striving to provide the best education possible for our students. Mayor Palmer stated that the City Schools do an excellent job and have been able to maintain the same millage rate even with the implementation of a higher Freeport exemption. The City has gone from a 20% exemption to a 60% exemption to help industrial recruitment efforts. This has had a major impact on the schools as this year alone it has reduced their tax levy by about \$250,000. Mayor Palmer stated that the City of Calhoun has maintained their millage rate below 2 mills since 1998. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the City of Calhoun and Calhoun Board of Education proposed property tax millage rates. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- B. The City of Calhoun candidates for the November 3, 2015 general municipal election:
- Mayor- James F. Palmer, incumbent; Mary Mays
 - Calhoun City Council Post #1- George Crowley, incumbent; Jackie Palazzolo
 - Calhoun City Council Post #2- Al Edwards, incumbent- unopposed
 - Calhoun City School Board Post #4- Eddie Reeves, incumbent- unopposed
 - Calhoun City School Board Post #5- Tony Swink, incumbent- unopposed
- C. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of R1-B for 0.63 acres at a location of 257 Hines Road for Wuilliam Lopez. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on October 8, 2015. The Public Hearing will be on October 12, 2015.
- D. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of R1-B for 0.29 acres at a location of 221 Cherokee Drive for Alvin and Sandra Hale. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on October 8, 2015. The Public Hearing will be on October 12, 2015.
- E. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a de-annexation request of R1 for 0.95 acres at a location of 109 Sylvan Drive for Marty and Patricia Brown. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on October 8, 2015. The Public Hearing will be on October 12, 2015.
- F. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a de-annexation request of PRD by North Georgia National Bank for a location of Tate Bend Road for 19.7 acres for map parcel #CG41B-061. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on October 8, 2015. The Public Hearing will be on October 12, 2015.
- G. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a variance request by Timothy Kirby at a location of 201 Chandler Street. The request is a 10' side set back variance request for a distance of 10 feet to 0 feet to add on to a non-conforming building that was built on the property line in 1938. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on October 8, 2015. The Public Hearing will be on October 12, 2015.
- H. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a variance request to allow an existing building to be used as an animal clinic, 43 foot variance request from property line, for Barrett Investment Enterprises at a location of 637 Oothcalooga Street. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on October 8, 2015. The Public Hearing will be on October 12, 2015.
- I. Mayor Palmer read a parade request on the traditional route for the Gordon Central Homecoming Parade on Thursday, October 15th starting at 3:30pm. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the parade request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- J. Mayor Palmer read a request by the Calhoun Police Department to withdraw \$825.00 from the asset seizure account number three to pay for technical services for a drug investigation. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- K. Mayor Palmer read a beer and wine package manager change request for Sam's Mart #530 at a location of 921 Hwy 53 SE. The prior manager was Lori Montgomery and the proposed manager is Melinda Espinosa. Councilman Barton made a motion

to approve the manager change request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- L. Mayor Palmer read a beer and wine pouring manager change request for Friends of the GEM at a location of 114 North Wall Street. The prior manager was Clare Lewis and the proposed manager is Kimberly Brazell. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the manager change request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

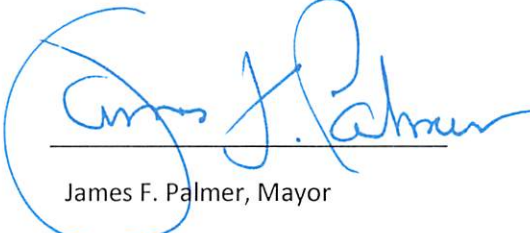
10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

- A. City Administrator Peterson
- B. City Attorney Govignon

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

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk