

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
AUGUST 8, 2016 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

**PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
David Hammond, Mayor Pro Tem
Al Edwards, Councilman
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilwoman
Matt Barton, Councilman**

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; Paul Worley, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Major Larry Gilbert, Police Department; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief

- 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, Councilwoman Palazzolo seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.**
- 4. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the July 25, 2016 Executive Session minutes. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
- 5. Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer introduced guests who were in attendance. Lamar Norton, Executive Director of the Georgia Municipal Association, thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to be in attendance at the meeting for an award presentation. Mr. Norton complimented the Mayor and Council for their leadership and what a great city Calhoun has been in the past and continues to be going forward. Mr. Norton and Tom Gehl, Director of Governmental Relations, presented Georgia House of Representatives, District 5, John D. Meadows III with the Georgia Municipal Association's Champion for Georgia's Cities legislative service award. Mr. Gehl stated that GMA very much appreciated Chairman Meadows' help this past term with a number of issues which were considered by the General Assembly, and particularly with the leadership shown on every single bill that impacted municipal governments. Mr. Norton stated, "We greatly appreciate Rep. Meadow's strong support for city government and his willingness to provide input on legislation moving through the General Assembly. Due to his strong leadership, the citizens of all of Georgia's cities will benefit. GMA represents 520 cities in Georgia and we couldn't do it without people like John**

Meadows.” Rep. Meadows thanked Mr. Norton and Mr. Gehl for the award and said he always is mindful of how legislation will impact cities and counties. Rep. Meadows also thanked the Mayor and Council and all local officials for the job they do. Mayor Palmer congratulated Rep. Meadows and reiterated that this award was not just for representing Calhoun, but representing all cities and thanked Rep. Meadows for his service.

- B. The City of Calhoun has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Individual award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to Andrea Bramlett, Director of Finance.

6. Council Comments:

- A. Councilman Edwards gave the July report as follows:

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

- The 2” Galvanized Line Replacement Project –The project as a whole is approximately 58% complete. Thor Drive, Hunt’s Subdivision, and Spring Valley, and Davis Road have been completed. The next project areas, Edwards Street, Fox Street, Short Street, and West Street is under construction.
- Flocculation and Sedimentation Control Project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant- The project has been completed except for a failure in a section of piping, which will be corrected by the contractor.
- The new NPDES permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant went into effect March 1, 2016. We have twenty months to have everything in place and operating in order to meet the new phosphorus limit, but new testing and reporting parameters are in effect now. The required Design Development Report has been submitted to EPD. Plans and specifications are due by December 2016.
- New Wastewater NPDES Permit Pilot Program- Implementation of the pilot program for phosphorus removal is underway and should be completed by the end of August 2016.
- The Nutrient Trading Monitoring Pilot Program is underway. The first phase, funded by a Section 319 Grant should be completed by the end of September 2016.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Motor Control Center Upgrades Phase one- The contractor is scheduled to begin work within the next few weeks.
- South Calhoun By-Pass utility relocations- GDOT gave us a “Notice to Proceed” on February 19th. GDOT has awarded the road project to Wright Brothers Construction. Pre-construction meeting for the utilities is pending resolution of wetlands issues.
- Pisgah Drainage Area Sewer Replacement- Engineering and permitting are in progress.

- Edmond Street/Short McConnell Street CDBG Project Water and Sewer replacement.
 - Glassrock Tank Painting is scheduled for this fall.
- 2) **Water Treatment Plant Facility**
- Total gallons withdrawn: 351,830,000
 - Daily average: 11,349,355
 - Wells: 145,460,000
 - Big Springs: 0
 - Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 41.3
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 39.74%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 42.20%
 - Rainfall- 2.19"
- 3) **Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility**
- Treated a daily average of 3.092 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 3, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 70.
- 4) **Water Distribution**
- 381 work orders completed, 17 new water connections, 31 water service leaks repaired, 14 water main leaks repaired, 42 utility locates called in for work orders, 349 utility locates responses.
 - Completed installing 3,600' of 6" PVC water line along Thompson Loop Road to serve 4 large chicken houses.
 - Installed 220' of 2" black poly water line along Campbell Drive to serve new water connection for chicken houses.
 - Installed 500' of 2" black poly water line to replace old 2" galv. Line on Park Street in Plainville.
- 5) **Waste Water Collection**
- 1,750' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 284 utility locates completed, 5,500' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 3 new sewer connections installed, 6 sanitary sewer services repaired.
 - Worked at Big Springs site removing beaver dams and cleaning up.
- 6) **Building Inspection Department**
- Issued 38 permits for an estimated cost of \$296,710, collected \$5,090 in permit fees. This included 2 new residential, 1 residential remodeling, 3 commercial remodel/Addition, 1 industrial remodel/addition, 4 signs, and 114 total inspections.
- 7) **Recreation Department**
- Park Expansion Project – Construction remains on target for completion of the park at the end of August aside from fall planting of trees in common areas. Construction update meetings were held July 7, 14, 21, and 28.
 - ASA STATE TOURNAMENTS – Our agency hosted the Georgia ASA State tournament for 10 & under Girls July 8-9, 2016. There were a total of 540 visitors that attended this 2 day event.

- Swim – The Blue Barracudas finished their season with 55 swimmers advancing to the GRPA State Swim Meet. The Barracudas finished 3rd as a team with 16 – 1st places; 15 -2nd place; 10 3rd place; 10 4th place finishes individually. Also 3 state records were set by 11-12 mixed medley relay; 15-18 Boys Freestyle relay; and mixed medley relay.
- Camps – Adventure Camp was held July 20 – 24 with 24 participants; Teen Adventure Camp was held July 25-27 with 12 participants.

B. Councilman Barton gave the July report as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 460 cases with 5 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$38,794
- Issued 478 warnings
- Investigated 52 highway accidents, 26 private property accidents
- Provided 91 escorts
- 1,813 incident reports
- Responded to 354 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 67,274
- Responded to 4,661 calls for service by E-911

2) **Municipal Court and Probation**

- Total Court cases- 264
- Court cases dropped- 53
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 163
- Number of Probation cases- 19
- Failure to appear- 30
- Subpoenas served- 6

3) **Fire Department- Suppression**

- Responded to 209 calls for service for the suppression division, 6 fire incidents for damages with \$1,554 in estimated fire damage.
- Responded to 145 medical service calls.
- Responded to 10 hazardous conditions incidents.
- Responded to 21 false alarms or false calls, 22 good intent.
- Conducted fire safety class at Catoosa Senior Village.
- Worked a mutual aid agreement calls close to the City Limits on July 4th with Gordon County Fire while they covered the Fair Grounds Fire Works Display, due to extremely dry conditions.

Training Division

- Department completed 472 hours of training.
- Training consisted of: Fire Company level training and set up CPAT course for candidate practice dates and live test date for position hires.

4) **Fire Inspection Department**

- 99 total reported activities/inspections which included 20 annual inspections, 5 new business inspections, 25 requested inspections, 24 follow-up or re-inspections, and 22 consultations.
- Fire Inspectors began inspections of City Schools for the start of the new school year.

5) Downtown Development Authority

- The DDA held an outdoor movie featuring The Good Dinosaur at the CHS Track. It was a free event for the community. Everyone was encouraged to eat and shop downtown before heading to the movie. Planning is underway for the 11th annual Harvest Fest. The date is scheduled for October 22nd from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Calhoun's own The Voice contestant Ellie Lawrence will be performing along with her brother Josh. There will be multiple craft and food vendors. It will be a fun filled day for the whole family.

C. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the July report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Completed 18 shop and 20 street department work orders.
- Kevin McEntire attended the annual APWA conference and received a Certificate of Public Works Management.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Repaired utility cuts and pot holes using approximately 26 tons of asphalt.
- Repaired a section of sidewalk on Curtis Parkway and repaired catch basins on Derby lane and Cherokee Lane.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 11 grave sites.
- Sold 8 new grave spaces.

3) Parks Department

- The Parks Department grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
- Mowed and weedeated approximately 19 miles of sidewalks, 29 islands, and 42 other designated places in the City.
- Bush hogged all right of way in the City.
- The building and maintenance crew performed routine maintenance on designed city buildings and all fountains.

4) Animal Control

- Housed 44 dogs and 45 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 10
- Number of cats adopted: 1
- Number of dogs rescued: 9
- Number of cats rescued: 11
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 16

- Number of dogs euthanized: 1
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 17
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issues: 5

5) **Safety Committee**

- Safety topic- mold awareness
- Safety Inspection- Electric and Telecommunications Departments
- Vehicle Accidents: 2- Police Department
- Workers Compensation: 0

D. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond gave the July report as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- Storms resulted in many temporary outages and two major outages, Downtown and Executive Parkway.
- Construction has begun on providing power to 35 lots for the Lenox Phase #2 development.
- August 11th is a great time to remind our community about the Georgia 811, call before you dig requirement. Damage to underground utilities is a major problem. Incidents caused by unsafe digging practices can compromise community safety and disconnect people from critical services. Know what's below, call 811 at least two days before you dig.
- The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for June was 42,769,000 kWh. This is about 4% less than last year's record.
- The City is a member of the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG) and as such a part owner of nuclear power generated at Plant Vogtle. Plant Vogtle is currently undergoing an expansion with reactors number three and four, which are scheduled to come online in years 2019 and 2020, respectively. These will be the first nuclear reactors to come online in the United States in 35 years and it is a \$14 billion project. The City of Calhoun owns around \$200 million of this project and it will help supply the City's power needs for the next 40 to 50 years. This helps Calhoun by reducing our carbon footprint and we currently have 62% of our energy coming from green energy sources. If more government environmental regulations are implemented, this will have Calhoun well positioned to meet the more stringent environmental regulations.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 101
- Completed and closed- 91
Consisting of:
 - Capital construction- 13
 - Street and security lighting-21
 - Distribution Maintenance-25
 - Outages/trouble calls- 19

- Meter maintenance/replacement- 6
- New customer meter sets- 10
- Electric locate tickets processed- 188

2) **Telecommunications Departments:**

3) **Geographic Information Systems:**

4) **Northwest Georgia Regional Commission**

- 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.
- Gordon County's unemployment rate for June 2016 is at 5.6% and the State's is at 5.1%. The regional unemployment rate is now 5.7%. Whitfield County is 6%, Murray County is 7.1%, Floyd County is 6.3%, and Bartow is 5.3%. The low unemployment rate is great for Gordon County, but we are constantly looking at ways to attract, retain, and recruit higher wage jobs, higher technical jobs, and more diversity of jobs. The average annual wages for Paulding County, influenced by its proximity to the Metro Atlanta, is \$33,979, Catoosa County is \$33,143, and Gordon County is the fourth best in the region at \$37,161. This can be contributable to the strong manufacturing base in our community.
- The City just received its tax digest numbers for 2016 and the City's net tax digest is now at \$728 million. The largest increase was in the category of industrial. The City has increased its Freeport exemption rate to 80% in an attempt to stay competitive with the surrounding communities who are already at 100% Freeport exemption.

5) **Tom B. David Airport**

- The Airport is an authority supported by both Gordon County and the City of Calhoun. The airport is the 7th largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia. The six counties that have more aircraft have populations of 150,000 or greater, where Gordon County only has 56,000. The airport has a 6,000 foot runway, where most others only have 5,000. Therefore, our airport can handle larger corporate jets for local industry. The airport is home to the Life Force helicopter with a 10 year contract in place. Also, the airport will received \$7-10 million dollars in Federal funding to build a parallel taxiway that will enable the airport to handle more traffic in and out. The Airport Authority is looking at expansions of hanger space and long term plans for the airport. Future expansions will allow the airport to grow even more and grow the positive local economic impact.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

- A. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing of a Taxi Cab License request for Maximiliano Campos D/B/A: Taxi Max at a location of 100 East May Street.
- Administrator Peterson stated that all advertising requirements have been met.
 - Mayor Palmer asked for comments. There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.
 - Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the taxi cab license request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- B. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a resolution calling for a non-binding referendum to inquire of the electorate of the City of Calhoun concerning term limits.
- Attorney Govignon reviewed the resolution that was presented at the last Council meeting. The question presented on the resolution states, "The Mayor and Council for the City of Calhoun, Georgia should begin procedures to amend or modify the present municipal charter to provide for term limitations on the elected officers of Mayor and members of the Council to then be submitted to the Georgia Assembly for enactment?" Anybody supporting term limits for the Mayor and Council would then vote yes and anybody not supporting term limits would vote no. The City could go through a special election process and have a question placed on the Tuesday, November 8, 2016 State and Federal General Election. The resolution that was introduced at the last meeting started the needed process for the call for the special election to be made at least ninety (90) days prior to the November 8, 2016 election.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that he looks how things are not working politically in Washington D.C. and at the state level and would like to look at local government and see if there is something we can do to make a difference. In talking about term limits, we have quality people serving the City and have been serving for several years, but we have citizens in the community who would step up if given the opportunity. In the state of Georgia you have 112 cities looking into term limits. The City of Roswell is a recent example of cities looking at the implementation of term limits. This resolution would give the citizens a voice into the matter and then Rep. Meadows would need to take it to the Georgia General Assembly for approval to be able to amend the City's Charter. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond reminded the public that he has volunteered publicly to be the first person to accept the reduction of time served by implementing term limits and give someone else a chance to serve.
 - Mayor Palmer stated that it will be interesting to see what the citizens have to say concerning term limits. Also, Mayor Palmer stated that in the past 30 years the average term limit for City Council has been 7.9 years. There are currently two Council members that beat incumbents on the

Council. Mayor Palmer stated he believed that term limits are set by the voters and the voters have the opportunity every two years to vote in someone new. The term length for Mayor has been longer and in the range of 8 to 12 years. Mayor Palmer stated that he has had opposition in two elections and in the last election there were a couple of people going through the community trying to get them to run against him. After the election, he had someone tell him that they plan to run for Mayor at the next opportunity. Therefore, it could be a contested seat and the voters will determine who wins. Mayor Palmer stated that there are only two cities that currently have term limits in Georgia, Atlanta and Hinesville, and Forsyth did have term limits, but they have now voted their term limits out. Mayor Palmer also referenced a graduate student's work from the University of Colorado, based on research conducted in five states concerning over 1,000 elections. The graduate student's conclusion based on his research was that term limits do not appear to accomplish what proponents claim. Previous studies find either conflicting evidence or negative consequences caused by term limits. Mayor Palmer said that is just some additional information to think about as voters go to the polls.

- Councilman Barton reiterated that this ballot question does not actually set term limits yet, but just gives the voter the option to go on record of supporting or not supporting term limits. It is a non-binding ballot question.
- Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. (resolution attached)

8. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer stated that the Council continues to discuss options for the Police Station. There were five options for the Police Department building on the agenda and two other options were brought up at the work session. During the work session it was agreed to eliminate option #3 and #4. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that the Council went into executive session to discuss these options at the last Council meeting to keep the real estate acquisition discussions private as to not escalate the market value of the property, and thanked the staff for researching and coming up with the options for a police station that will help to manage the growth over the next 50 years. The current PD is already overcrowded and we have several locations throughout the City to house our different divisions of the Police Department. This presents challenges to having operational efficiencies when your department is spread out. The current PD was built in 1928 as a post office and Chief Moss brought it to the Council's attention this year that we have some working conditions that are not in the best interest of the employees. Therefore, we need to move forward and come up with an option that will keep our employees safe, and also have a PD that will serve our needs over the next 20 to 30 years. Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that she feels like after the discussions at the work

session that she was in favor of moving forward with either option #2 or a sixth option brought up by Councilman Edwards at the work session (option #6). Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that these options are a little bit lower priced considering the space with the other options that we would get more value and give us additional space for growth in the future. Councilwoman Palazzolo then made a motion to pursue either option #2 or option #6 based on the best price once the final price is determined. Councilman Hammond gave a second to the motion. Mayor Palmer stated that the number one choice of the City Administrator and the Police Chief was option #5 to renovate the current PD building and to also purchase the Maddox building next door with the possibility of putting in a SPLOST project to remodel that building. The option #2 includes about 9 acres, but a large portion of that land is unusable due to water runoff areas. At \$50,000 per acre Mayor Palmer recommended that they not pursue the whole property during negotiations, but only about four acres that are usable. Councilman Barton stated that he also prefers either option #2 or option #6. Mayor Palmer stated that there has been a motion and a second with no more discussion and called for a vote on the motion. All Council members voted aye.

9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer read a road closure request by United Way of Gordon County for Unity Run XXIII to be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 6:30pm. The Unity Run begins on Warrior Path at Gordon Central High School, crosses Red Bud Road onto Curtis Parkway, right onto Dews Pond Road, right onto Barrett Road, left onto Meadow Lane, left onto Buena Vista continuing on Boulevard Heights, right onto East Line Street, left onto Piedmont Street, right onto North Court Street crosses Hwy 41 and ends at the corner of Court Street and Park Avenue in downtown Calhoun. Vickie Spence was in attendance and thanked the City and the Mayor and Council for their continued support. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the road closure request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- B. Haley Stephens and Tammy Brown with Hand Up Housing, Inc. discussed their Tiny Homes Project. Ms. Brown discussed the group's desire to provide more affordable housing in Gordon County. The group is focusing on veterans and the elderly. Mrs. Brown stated that they have met and heard of people paying \$900 per month to stay at a hotel and they would like to provide them with a better more affordable option. This is a very big project and the group has been working hard on the concept. Mr. Stephens showed the Mayor and Council where the proposed property was on Salem Road for the tiny homes and asked the Council for help with the project. Mr. Stephens said there is 0.6 acres out of the flood plain that could accommodate about 26 units and that would leave five acres for a community garden. The parcel is surrounded by industrial, agricultural, and the airport. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked about their transportation plan and if this location would be feasible for those who do not have vehicles seeing as these projects are generally more suitable for locations close to downtown areas with easy access to basic necessities. The walkability of a site is of utmost importance. Mr. Stephens said there would be opportunities for convenience stores and laundry mats in the area, but they would need to research a transportation plan more. GMA recently held a

class on tiny homes and the walkability aspect is very important for daily needs. Mayor Palmer stated that the lack of space and refrigeration space necessitates frequent trips to grocery stores and it is very important for the location of the tiny homes to be in an area close to areas to provide these daily necessities. The City of Monroe has approved a few projects with the tiny home concept, but they have been a part of a larger PRD development and the PRD has been associated with a revitalization of areas close to downtown. Mayor Palmer asked who would manage and look after the property and if it was a nonprofit. Mr. Stephens stated that they are incorporated and are in the process of getting their 501(c)3 designation and there would be a resident manager on the property hired by the Board of Directors. If someone was paying \$900 per month, they could rent these units for \$500-\$600 per month, which would give them extra money for daily essentials. Mr. Stephens stated that this was just one idea to help meet a need in the community. Mr. Stephens said they are in the process of moving some mini store-all units and an engineer has said they could relocate them to this property and repurpose them for the tiny homes. The first phase would be a total of 13 units and that would let them rent 10 units, leave two units for emergency situations, and leave one unit for a resident manager office. The units are 10 feet by 30 feet and all applicants for housing would be drug tested. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked how they would afford the utility cost and it was against the law for the City to provide utilities at no cost for the project with tax payer money. The best option to provide sewer to the property would cost about \$65,000 minimum and it would likely be much more due to rock in the area. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that the City has a 25 year comprehensive plan in place approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs that addresses affordable housing. This is important to follow as this is the avenue in which Federal and State tax dollars flow into the community. If these steps aren't taken the City could lose these funding sources and we would be ineligible to apply for additional CDGB grants and other opportunities. A recent example of affordable housing is the recently completed Cherokee Mill Loft project. There has been many projects like this to help address affordable housing, but there is always room for improvement. Roberta Charbonneau with Family Connection of Gordon County and the Housing Stability Coalition of Gordon County was in attendance and stated that she was not aware of this project and encouraged the group to explore what options for affordable housing were already out there and perhaps partner with other existing agencies. For example, there is a new program for veterans for rapid reaction housing through Action Ministries. This is a new opportunity for veterans funded by the Federal Government for immediate housing needs. Mrs. Charbonneau stated that there is housing needs within the community, but there is a difference between chronic homelessness and situational homelessness. A large need is the situational homelessness of children, especially in the school system, and this project wouldn't be appropriate for those needs. Also, with chronic homelessness there are concerns about mental health issues and transportation needs, so walkability is a big issue. Councilman Barton also references an affordable housing project that was recently approved in Gordon County that proposed building about 64 housing units. Gail Brown with the Calhoun Housing Authority was also in attendance and reviewed the many grants that they are working towards. The CHA recently partnered with the City to apply for an \$800,000 CDBG grant to help rehab housing units along with important aging

infrastructure replacements. Mrs. Brown commended the group for wanting to take action to fulfil a need in the community. There is currently a waiting list to get into the CHA, but they are working hard to improve their existing units and also attempting to expand. In additions, Mrs. Brown stated that the CHA started their own nonprofit called New Foundations that has helped to rehab 120 local homes and a lot of these have been for veterans. Mayor Palmer stated that he considered this as an informational meeting for everyone. As it stands, the zoning ordinances would not allow this proposed project, but the Council will take it under consideration.

- C. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a variance request by Ronnie Holbrook: GAH Properties, LLC at a location of 114 Erwin Street. The variance request is for a 29 foot variance from the required 30 foot front setback on the southeast corner and the southwest corner. Also, a 15 foot variance from the required 20 foot side setback on the east side of the property to be able to construct new mini store all units. The Zoning Advisory board is scheduled for September 8th and public hearing will be on September 12th.
- D. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of an ordinance change for the on-system and off-system streets within the City of Calhoun. The changes made reflect updating Mile Post for the State Routes. No Off-System roads were revised. Councilman Barton made a motion to set the public hearing for August 22nd. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer read a recommendation by the Golf Advisory Commission to appoint Jim Gill, Chris Pierce, and William Hamilton to a six year term on the Golf Advisory Commission. The term would expire June 30, 2022. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the recommendation. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- F. Mayor Palmer read a recommendation by the Revolving Loan Commission to appoint Michael Wilson and Kathy Johnson to a six year term on the Revolving Loan Commission. The term would expire on June 30, 2022. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the recommendation. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- G. Mayor Palmer read a request to allow the Mayor to sign the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security: Georgia Search and Rescue Team (GSAR #6) memorandum of agreement. This document extends the term of agreement through January 31, 2020. Councilman Edwards made a motion to allow the Mayor to sign the memorandum of agreement. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- H. Mayor Palmer reviewed a proposal from the Jaeger Company for design guidelines and standards for primary connectors/corridors and gateways for the City of Calhoun. Administrator Peterson stated that the proposal was originally presented in 2014 and he suggested that representatives from the Jaeger Company come to a work session to discuss this project. The proposal at the time was about \$41,000 and the company agreed to honor that price because they believe it would be a great project for the City. The Council agreed that it would be good to have a presentation given at the next work session if possible.
- I. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a Taxi Cab License request for Juana Rodriguez D/B/A: Boricua Taxi Cab at a location of 820 North Wall Street.

Councilman Edwards made a motion to set the public hearing on September 12th. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

A. Administrator Eddie Peterson

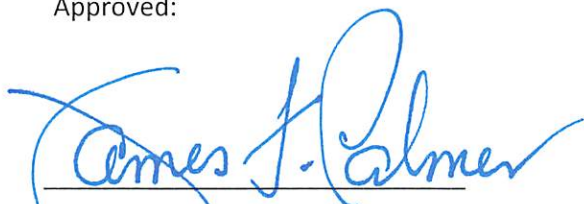
- Administrator Peterson stated that Brice Holcomb and Jim Pannell have been the City's debt managers for the past 20 years and they have identified a possibility of doing a private refunding of some existing long term debt that would save the City about \$285,000. This would be a private issue, which involves private investors for the existing long term debt, but it would not extend the debt period. It only reduces the interest rates paid and saves the City around \$285,000. Administrator Peterson recommended to go forward with the refunding opportunity. Councilman Hammond made a motion to go forward with the refunding opportunity. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

B. City Attorney George Govignon


- Mr. Govignon introduced for a first reading an ordinance change to the sign ordinance to eliminate Hwy 156 (Red Bud Road) from the Highway Interstate Exchange zone. This interchange has recently undergone a major renovation and improvement and the Mayor and Council desire to make this a gateway exit for the City. This would require greater limitations and restrictions for interstate signage and to follow design guidelines to be enacted at a later date. Attorney Govignon also recommended a moratorium of 60 days on any new sign permits in the Hwy 156 interchange corridor, from the intersection with Curtis Parkway to the intersection with Newtown Church Road, until this ordinance can be adopted. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the 60 day new sign permit moratorium for the Hwy 156 interchange corridor. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

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

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A NON-BINDING REFERENDUM
TO INQUIRE OF THE ELECTORATE OF THE CITY OF CALHOUN**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and members of the City Council for Calhoun, Georgia have engaged in discussions regarding a charter amendment that would enact certain term limits upon the members of the elected governing authority; and

WHEREAS, the procedure to make such an amendment would be a matter to be addressed by the Georgia General Assembly by enactment of local law; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City of Calhoun, Georgia desires to gain the input of the affected electorate on this issue prior to the initiation of the proceedings and process to make an amendment to the current charter; and

NOW, THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED that the election superintendent for the City of Calhoun, Georgia issue a call for a ballot question by special election pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-540 and 21-2-541 to be included during the upcoming general State and Federal elections to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016; and

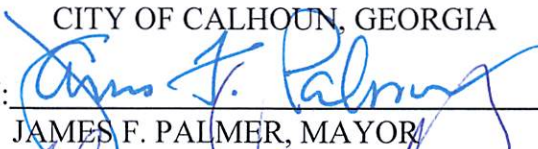
FURTHER RESOLVED, the election superintendent shall conduct such a ballot question affecting the provisions of the municipal charter concerning the elections or composition of the governing authority, as provided by O.C.G.A. § 36-35-3 and O.C.G.A. § 21-2-540 and shall prepare a ballot written or printed thereon the following words:

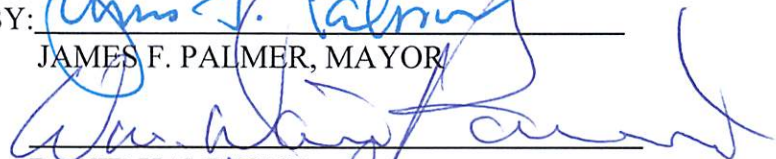
- “() YES The Mayor and Council for the City of Calhoun, Georgia should begin procedures to amend or modify the present municipal charter to provide for term limitations on the elected officers of Mayor and members of the Council to then be submitted to the Georgia General Assembly for enactment?”
[] NO

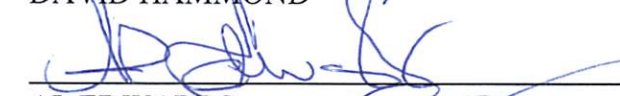
All persons desiring to vote for the beginning of such process to provide for term limits to the offices of these elected officials shall indicate "Yes," and those persons desiring to vote for rejection of such a proposition shall indicate "No"

SO RESOLVED IN OPEN, PUBLIC, REGULAR MEETING this 8th day of August, 2016.


CITY OF CALHOUN, GEORGIA

BY: 
JAMES F. PALMER, MAYOR


DAVID HAMMOND


AL EDWARDS


MATT BARTON


JACKIE PALAZZOLO

ATTEST:


PAUL WORLEY, CITY CLERK