

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
MARCH 10, 2014 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

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

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. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Crowley seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014 City Council Meeting. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer congratulated both the boys and girls Calhoun High School basketball teams for making it to the State Playoffs. Also, the Calhoun boys made it to the championship game where they were defeated by only 3 points to a nationally ranked Greater Atlanta Christian team.
 - B. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council and public that there will be a special called policy work session March 15, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. The meeting will be held at the Community Development Conference Room, 700 West Line Street.
6. **Council Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the February report as follows:
 - 1) **Electric Department**
 - o Work continues on the New High School / Middle School expansion.

- The relocation of the Power Lines necessary for the New Gordon County Career Academy along Hwy 53 Spur continues.
- Construction will began in March on the GDOT Red Bud Road project.
- Construction continues on the Power Line relocation and underground conversion necessary for Gordon Hospital Expansion.
- Electrical installation continues on the Library Expansion with a new underground service and L.E.D. parking lot lighting.
- Electrical installation of new underground power has begun for the Cherokee Mills Loft Apartment Complex.
- During the snow and ice we only had six outages. Because of our small amount of damage we were able to send a crew to Chattanooga to help with their power restoration. The crew included: Dennis Henry, Neal Dockery, Brett Sane, D.K. Nicholson, and Jamie Mills.

- The City Electrical load for February was 32,793,996 kWh. Consumption was down about 2% because of the weather causing manufacturing plants to close.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 119
- Completed and closed- 104
Consisting of:
 - Capital construction- 7
 - Street and security lighting-69
 - Distribution Maintenance-9
 - Meter maintenance/replacement- 2
 - New customer meter sets- 5
 - Monthly total system locate tickets processed- 158

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Installed two and started construction on a third point-to-point service connection.
- Added 30 Meg of Internet bandwidth to existing customer.
- Started fiber construction to reroute fiber around Gordon Hospital expansion.
- New billing software testing is proceeding. Have several open incident tickets to be resolved prior to going live.
- An unplanned phone number move caused incoming calls for the Middle School and Board of Education to stop working for a few hours. Silver lining for caller ID is working for all but the main line numbers.
- Switched Police Department radio towers over to new circuits. Waiting for vendor to test.
- Opened 26 and closed 23 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Received updated parcel information from the county and updated city GIS maps.
- Updated Street Department street maintenance maps.

- Continue to work with users to configure their smart phones to work with mobile GIS application.
- Researching storm water data sources for accurate data.
- Working with Engineering Department to resolve water system connectivity issues for modeling project.
- Worked with Telecom Department on fiber mapping.
- Updated zoning maps.
- Updated pre-fire plans for Fire Department.
- Updated addresses from changes in billing account data.
- Participated in work flow documentation process.
- Updated City and GIS websites.

4) Downtown Development Authority

- The DDA continues to work with consultants on Streetscape Phase IV; ICA's Terry Rutledge with the ongoing cleanup of the I-75 ramps in Gordon County; and other smaller cleanup and beautification projects.
- Downtown Calhoun is a co-sponsor of the Annual BBQ Boogie & Blues coming up on April 25-26.

B. Councilman Barton gave the February report as follows:

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

- The Brittany Drive Expansion Project- The project is approximately 80% complete.
- Clarifier Mechanism Replacement Project- The new mechanisms and troughs are on site. Installation will begin later this month and will take about thirty days.
- I-75 & Red Bud Road utility relocate- Notice to proceed from GDOT was issued on May 30, 2013. Construction began on November 18th and the contractor is making progress.
- Design is complete for the King Street and Pine Street replacement sewers.
- The design is complete for the flocculation and sedimentation control project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant. Bid opening was March 4, 2014 and bids are under review.
- Coosawattee Intake Screen Replacement- Received bids on October 22, 2013 and Atlas Manufacturing was awarded the bid at \$199,750. The screens are scheduled to arrive the week of March 10th.
- Water system modeling utilizing our GIS data base- proposals reviewed with CH2MHILL being the best and next to the lowest price.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 282,780,000
- Daily average: 10,099,285
- Wells: 130,710,000
- Big Springs: 0
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 46.2

- Rainfall- 4.56"
- 3) **Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility**
 - Treated a daily average of 7.561 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 9, average suspended effluent of 10, and an average COD of 116.
- 4) **Water Distribution**
 - 6 Water connections, 21 water service leaks repaired, 20 water main leaks repaired, 6 water meters changed out, 35 water meters changed for yearly testing, 3 yards or roadway edges repaired due to previous work, 22 utility locates called in for work orders, 389 utility locates responded to, and 66 misc. calls
 - Completed installing 2,830 feet of 4" ductile iron pipe along B. Johnson Road.
 - Installed 400 feet of 2" black poly line to replace old 1" galvanized pipe along Line Street.
 - Assisted Street Department with snow and ice removal for two snow events.
- 5) **Waste Water Collection**
 - 1,450' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 235 utility locates completed, 2 lift station repairs completed, 4,200' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 65 manholes opened and inspected, 5 sanitary sewer services repaired
- 6) **Building Inspection Department**
 - Issued 36 permits for an estimated cost of \$1,908,650, collected \$13,822.00 in permit fees. This included 1 new residential, 2 new commercial, 6 residential remodeling, 4 commercial remodeling, 1 residential plumbing, 2 new residential and 2 commercial HVAC, 1 residential electrical, 1 industrial electrical, 6 sign permits, 3 grading permits, and 102 total inspections.
- 7) **Recreation Department**
 - **Youth Basketball:** GRPA District basketball tournaments were played February 22 through March 1, 2014. There were seven teams representing Calhoun Recreation Department. Our agency hosted the 5th District 9-10 Boys and 7-8 Girls tournaments with 15 teams participating. The economic impact for this 5 day tournament was \$57,720.00. The following Calhoun All-Star teams won their district tournament and participated in the GRPA State tournament March 7-8: 7-8 Girls; 9-10 Girls; 9-10 Boys; 13-14 Boys
 - **Youth Soccer:** The Spring youth soccer season began on Saturday, February 28. A total of 329 participants/40 teams of boys and girls ages 4 through 12 are participating in our spring soccer program.
 - **Youth Baseball/Softball:** The spring baseball and softball registration concluded on Thursday, March 7. Assessments will be held on Monday, March 10 and 11. The team drafts will take place March 12 and 13. Games are scheduled to begin on April 14.

- **2014 TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS:**
 - GRPA 5TH District Basketball Tournament – 7-8 Girls and 9-10 Boys – February 22 – 27, 2014
 - OPENING DAY – Spring Soccer – March 1, 2014
 - OPENING DAY – Youth Baseball/Softball – April 14, 2014
 - ASA National Qualifier – May 16-18, 2014 – 16 & under and 18 & under
 - ASA State Class A – July 11-13, 2014 – 14 & under

C. Councilman Crowley gave the February report as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 546 cases with 6 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$87,358.11
- Issued 818 warnings
- Investigated 42 highway accidents, 28 private property accidents
- Provided 86 escorts
- 1,332 incident reports
- Responded to 647 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 52,304
- Responded to 4,544 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 619
- Court cases dropped- 114
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 383
- Number of Probation cases- 52
- Probation Payments- \$36,855.00
- Probation Revocations- 23
- Failure to appear- 65
- Prisoner transports- 46

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Responded to 151 calls for service for the suppression division, 7 fire incidents for damages. (\$24,100 in estimated fire damage)
- Responded to 107 medical service calls
- Responded to 5 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 4 false alarms or false calls, 20 good intent
- Assisted with weather issues in town.

Training Division

- Department completed 1,101 man hours of in house training.
- Training consisted of experienced hazardous materials, officer training, and required core skills.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 120 total reported activities/inspections which included 35 annual inspections, 8 new business inspections, 30 requested inspections, 10

follow-up or re-inspections, 1 burn site inspections, and 34 consultations

- Inspectors attended local emergency planning meeting (LEPC).

D. Councilman Hammond gave the February report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Councilman Hammond started by thanking Kevin McEntire and Mark Williamson, along with their crews who did a great job in removing snow and ice from the roadways during two winter weather events.
- Completed 20 shop and 19 street department work orders.
- Placed 7 new street signs.
- Hauled 922 tons of stone to stockpile on Kirby Road
- Worked to remove snow and ice from the second winter storm by scraping roads and spreading 12 tons of salt and gravel.
- Replaced a catch basin on Woodridge Drive.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 22 grave sites.
- Sold 8 new grave spaces.
- Worked 22 grave sites.

3) Animal Control

- Housed 34 dogs, and 4 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 20
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 5
- Number of warnings given: 16
- Number of bite cases: 2
- Number of inquiries: 51
- We have opened a Facebook page in February that has proven to be a critical asset to our adoption process and get the animals back home to their owners. We also will be using it to inform the public of any news or tips that will benefit Calhoun's pet owners. We currently have 964 followers on our site in one month and that number is steadily rising. Our adoption percentages have went through the roof compared to before Facebook. In the month of January we adopted 7.8% of the animals we brought in and 13.7% got reclaimed by their owners. The month of February we have adopted 58.8% of the animals brought in and 14.7% got reclaimed by their owners. We hope these numbers continue to rise in the future.

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.
- Installed medicine safe at the Animal Control Building.

5) Safety Committee

- Safety topic- computer workstations
- Safety Inspection- Library and Calhoun Utilities Administration Building
- Accidents: Vehicle Accident-0
- Workers Comp: 1- Meter Reader; 1- Street Department; 1- Water Construction

6) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- Councilman Hammond discussed that the Regional Commission (RC) oversees 15 counties in Northwest Georgia that helps to reallocate federal dollars to various programs that benefit the citizens such as meals on wheels, workforce training, and community planning. The RC had the first meeting of the year with new committee assignments. Councilman Hammond will serve on the executive committee of personnel and finance, area on aging, and community and economic development. As pertaining to economic development Councilman Hammond stated that the unemployment rate for Gordon County in December has dropped to 8.2%. Counties close to metro Chattanooga and metro Atlanta have the lowest unemployment rates in the Northwest region.
- Councilman Hammond discussed a regional priorities list and discussed they will be advocating with the state and federal governments for projects that could be considered throughout the region. One project is a phosphorus removal component in which there will be regulations mandating the removal of phosphorus from drinking water and this could become very expensive.
- Also, the RC had a meeting with Mike Beatty who is the former Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. He is working with an agency called Great Promise Partnership which works with at risk young adults to find work opportunities. An example is Southwire Corporation in Carrollton where over 400 young adults have completed the program and continued on to gainful employment. Mr. Beatty stated that Calhoun will be the second largest project in working with Calhoun High School and a local industry, which potentially will impact 50 young adults.

7) Tom B. David Airport

- The engineering plans to build a parallel taxiway to increase frequency of landing and takeoffs is coming to completion. They should start moving dirt for the project in the spring.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

- A. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for a sign variance request by Butch Baur DBA: Waffle House at a location of 260 West Belmont Drive. The sign variance is to vary from the allowed 25 feet to 50 feet in height of the sign and to vary from the allowed 120 square feet to 250 square feet for the face of the sign.
- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
 - Councilman Edwards stated that the Zoning Advisory Board (ZAB) met on March 6th and recommended that the sign variance request be denied based on the criteria set forth in the new sign ordinance in section 10.4.6. This section requires five specific criteria that must be met for a variance to be granted.
 - Attorney Govignon stated that the ZAB determined that specific criteria was not met according to section 10.4.6 (d) and (e); which states that a unique hardship exists because of an extraordinary and exceptional condition pertaining to the particular piece of property in question because of a characteristic of its size, shape, and topography; and the condition causing the hardship is unique and is not common to the region in general.
 - Mayor Palmer asked for public comments and the applicant Butch Baur with Waffle House spoke. Mr. Baur presented pictures of sign visibility from the intersection of Hwy 53 and Hwy 41 and from the red light at the Wal-mart Supercenter on Hwy 53. Mr. Baur stated that a 25 foot tall sign would not have proper visibility from these points, but their proposed 50 foot tall sign would be seen at these two main focal points. Mr. Baur stated that the hardship was due to the existing sign clutter that would prevent visibility of their sign. Also, they want to ensure that travelers from the interstate would have a chance of seeing their sign after getting off at Hwy 53 and traveling west.
 - There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
 - Councilman Edwards made a motion to deny the sign variance request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer introduced Jordon Fuquea and stated Jordon is a senior at CHS and is presently in the CTI Work Based Learning Program under the supervision of Judy Peterson. Jordon is employed with the Calhoun Recreation Department working under the direction of Malcolm Fain. Jordon was asked to complete an assignment that required him to "give examples how he was able to demonstrate the five characteristics of Good Work Ethic: reliability, dedication, productivity, cooperation, character." Jordon chose to do a 10 minute power point to highlight some of the

opportunities he has had since starting work with Kim Townsend in early September 2013. Mrs. Peterson stated Jordan gave his power point presentation to her as an assignment and he did such a good job they decided he should also give the presentation at a City Council meeting. After Jordan's presentation Mayor Palmer congratulated him on a great presentation and said he was impressed with his work ethic and accomplishments.

- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer package license request by Laiba Noor Corporation DBA: LN Foodmart at a location of 549 Hwy 53 SE. The proposed manager is Arif Shekh. Councilman Crowley made a motion to set the public hearing for April 14, 2014. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

10. **Other written items not on the agenda:** None

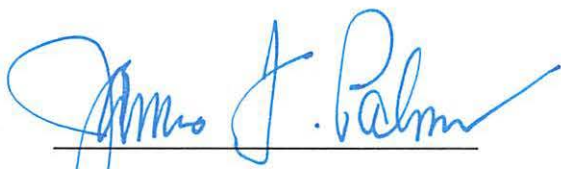
11. **Work Reports:**

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

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

Approved:

Submitted:



James F. Palmer, Mayor



Paul Worley, City Clerk