

**CITY OF CALHOUN  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET  
CALHOUN, GA  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James F. Palmer, Mayor  
Lorene Potts, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ray Denmon, Councilman  
George Crowley, Councilman  
David Hammond, Councilman

**ALSO:** William P. Bailey, City Attorney  
Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities  
Cathy Harrison, City Administrator

**ABSENT:** Eddie Peterson, City Administrator in Training

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the proposed agenda with the addition of a road closing request. The motion was second by Councilman Denmon with Councilman Crowley, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Hammond and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
4. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting as written. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Councilman Hammond, Councilman Crowley, Councilman Denmon, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
5. **Mayors Comments:**
  - A. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of the GMA meeting scheduled at the depot on September 17, 2007 at 1:30 P.M. He encouraged all Elected Officials to attend.
  - B. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of a special training class that has been rescheduled by the Gordon County Emergency Management Department, the class on ICS 402 will be provided on September 25, 2007 from 6 P.M.-8 P.M. at the Gordon County Fire Station #1 across from the Outlet Mall. He stated Councilman Crowley and Eddie Peterson are the only two certified at this time.
  - C. Mayor Palmer reminded the council of a training opportunity that is scheduled by GMA on November 16, 2007 from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. The courses will include Economic Development, Environmental Management, Regional Approaches to City/County cooperation.
  - D. Mayor Palmer reminded the council of a city school and council meeting for information purposes only that will be scheduled on September 18, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. at the City School's Main Office on Barrett Road.

- E. Mayor Palmer reminded the public that the last day to register to vote in city elections is October 9, 2007.

6. **Council Comments:**

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Potts gave the August reports as follows:

- 1) **The Street Department:**
  - Placed 7 new street signs
  - Completed 28 shop work orders
  - Ran Storm Water Maintenance Plan on August 30
  - Checked all grated & pipes within the City
  - The rubberized material, mulch, and back filling of the sidewalks are complete for the new playground area at the 58 acre park
  - They hauled 494 single axel dump truck loads of topsoil
  - Grated Hwy 136 soccer practice fields
  - Contracted with Sports Turf Company to spread the soccer practice field with Bermuda grass, it is up and growing well
  - Removed unstable base and place new stone base on a 450x100 foot parking lot at the Hwy 136 soccer practice field area
  - Trenched in approximately 4,000 feet of electrical wire for the power to the 58 acre recreation park
  - Hauled 70 tandem loads of stone to the parking lot at the 58 acre recreation park
  - Purchased a new seeding and mulch blowing machine; they grassed and mulched ditches & the five acres of disturbed ground at the 58 acre recreation park
  - Repaired a 14x60 sunken portion of the intersection at Wilco Truck Plaza utilizing 12 tons of asphalt and 10 gallons of tack
  
- 2) **The Parks and Maintenance Department:**
  - Completed maintenance jobs for City Hall, Building Inspection, and the Library
  - Installed plumbing and poured a 40x80 pad for the new recreation pavilion
  - Continued priming and painting metal parts used for construction on the new pavilion
  - Worked at McConnell Road Community Center installing new floor tile, cabinets, restroom facilities, and a sound system
  
- 4) **Cemetery Department:**
  - Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites
  - Performed routine maintenance for both Fain & Chandler Cemeteries
  - Sold 12 new grave spaces
  - Assisted Contractors with installation of 6 new monuments
  
- 5) **Animal Control:**
  - Responded to 56 customer calls.
  - Housed 43 dogs and 11 cats
  
- 6) **Safety Committee:**
  - Inspected the Library, Utilities Building, and City Hall Annex on August 20
  - Reported 3 workers compensation cases and 1 miscellaneous

Mayor Pro Tem Potts stated that Mainstreet Partnership and Downtown Calhoun will sponsor Harvest Fest on October 27 from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. They are requesting the ability to close Court Street from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.; this would be from Wall Street to Park Avenue and also a portion of Park Avenue from the Library to Oothcalooga Street. Following discussion Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the street closing as requested. The motion was second by Councilman Denmon with Councilman Hammond, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

B. Councilman Denmon stated:

- 1) The Water Treatment Plant Facility:
  - Pumped a daily average of 15.015 MGD during the month of August
  - On August 23 there was a record setting peak demand of 19,310,000 gallons pumped that day
- 2) The Waste Treatment Plant:
  - Treated a daily average of 5.5 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 7, average suspended effluent of 10, and an average COD effluent of 63
  - Councilman Denmon stated the numbers continue to go down
- 3) The Water Construction Department:
  - Changed out 10 new meters
  - Repaired 59 leaks
  - Installed 3,280 feet of 6-inch PVC water line
  - Installed 500 feet of 8-inch PVC water line
  - Changed out 61 meters
  - Installed 1 new fire hydrant
  - Received and responded to 46 calls at the shop
  - Provided 573 locates for contractors and others
  - Requested 73 locates through the state program
- 4) The Sewer Construction Department:
  - Provided 9 sewer connections during the month.
  - Repaired 11 sewer services.
  - Repaired 6 manholes
  - Inspected 7 sewer services for a total of 920 feet.
  - Provided 358 locates
  - Repaired 2 lift stations.
  - Responded to 1 after hour calls.
  - Cleaned 23 lines totaling 6,900 feet.
  - Opened and inspected 68 manholes
  - Completed Greys Landing Lift Station changeover
- 5) The Sludge Department:
  - Applied 2,208 cubic yards of sludge
- 6) Building Inspection Department:

- Sold 49 permits for a total of \$8,194,000.00 for new construction; \$4,600,000.00 was for new industrial construction

C. Councilman Crowley stated:

1) The Electric Department:

Long Term Projects Under Construction:

- They continued to upgrade the older clarifiers and thickeners under construction at the Waste Treatment Plant. The project is approximately 80% complete.
- Began work Phase II of the System Loss Program for 2007-2008; they are currently in the Engineering Revision Phase
- The System Reliability Project will begin this fall with new equipment already received

Projects and Maintenance Under Construction:

- New Recreation Project
- The Avalon Estates Subdivision
- Liberty Tire Recycling (Tires, Inc)
- Salem Road pump station
- New projects for Magnolia Plaza and Willow Brook remain under construction
- The Civic Auditorium roof and HVAC system project continues
- Relocating facilities for Starbucks and Pizza Hut
- New services for Fox Building on Executive Park Drive and for Stepp Professional Court Building
- New line is being relocated for Kobelco and the Hwy 136 Bridge construction

Work Orders in Process or Completed for August:

- Street and security lighting – 51
- New business and maintenance – 56
- After hours trouble callouts – 22

2) Telecommunications Department:

- Signed an agreement for a new T-1 service for Gordon Hospital
- Signed Internet Agreement for Sample Barn, Sample Factory, Brumbelow Group, and Strategic Outsourcing
- Completed work on a T-1 line to the new County Fire Department
- Completed construction of a fiber line for internet service to Pawnmart, Inc.
- Completed moving Customer Service computers and phones to the Utilities Administration Building
- Opened 30 and closed 26 work orders
- Opened 4 and closed 3 trouble calls

During the Month of August the Electric Department:

- Issued 15 permits
- Performed 63 inspections
- Set 17 meters
- Sold over 32 million KWH of electricity

D. Councilman Hammond reviewed the following reports:

1) The Police Department:

- Made 840 cases with 9 DUI's & 127 Speeding
- Issued 784 warnings

- Responded to 65 highway accidents
  - Responded to 39 private property accidents
  - Provided 124 escorts
  - Filed 1,844 incident reports
  - Responded to 330 alarms
  - Patrolled 57,620 miles
  - Responded to 5,326 calls from 911
  - Issued 8 parking citations
- 2) The Fire Department:
- Responded to 85 calls for service, 12 fire incidents for damages totaling \$105,000.00
  - Responded to 28 emergency medical service calls with 25 injuries & 2 deaths
  - Responded to 12 hazardous conditions incidents
  - Responded to 4 miscellaneous service calls, 1 good intents, 28 false alarms
  - Received and responded to 70 calls for after hour's utility request during the month.
  - Completed in house training for all fire fighters on state required core skills
  - Completed all station and vehicle maintenance.
- 3) Fire Inspection Department:
- Conducted 53 inspections during the month; 1 annual, 60 business, 14 requested, 2 follow-ups, 36 consultations
  - Provided a fire extinguisher training class at the recreation center & at NDC
  - Fire drills at Calhoun Primary School & Gordon Central High School
  - The inspectors attended the Georgia Public Safety Training Center for a 5 day safety class and Inspector Evans attended the City Safety Meeting
  - The RDC board will hold its retreat during the next week, they will be meeting with the North Georgia RDC and one of their primary discussions will be water and regional efforts to protect/improve regional allocations. The meeting will be held at the Cohutta Lodge at Fort Mountain.
7. **Zoning and other Public Hearings:**
- A. Mayor Palmer announced there were no scheduled zoning hearings for the evening.
- B. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan.
- Mayor Palmer stated Paige Hatley with MacTech is in attendance and he asked her to begin the public hearing.
  - Ms. Hatley stated the Comprehensive Plan is in its final stages. In the fall of 2006 the community had held the assessment phase of the program, they had also completed the community participation portion following the assessment and those had been submitted to DCA for review. She stated the public hearing is primarily to review the community agenda which is the final portion of the Comprehensive Plan. She stated the community agenda is the vision portion of the Comprehensive Plan, it relates to the character areas that have been identified within the city limit area and it will also provides information and an implementation plan based on five year work programs. She stated the city has reviewed and provided their proposed five year work program and also identified long term goals that will be addressed in the

remaining fifteen year portion of the program. She reviewed the map and also identified two changes the county had amended following their public hearing. She stated the area north of Red Bud Road would be identified as a character area that will be upgraded in the final plan; also they have added a proposed area that will be identified as the South Calhoun Bypass. The City stated in their plan they will also ask an additional link to the South Bypass be included that will continue up to the Red Bud Road area.

- Mayor Palmer asked if there were any comments by the public as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan
- Deborah Guinter, a local resident and a developer who resides in the Timber Ridge Subdivision stated she commended the City for their long range planning and their service area. She stated she applauds both the City and County for the efforts made for the Comprehensive Plan. She stated this is only a part of the project. She stated with the agenda outlined she would ask that the Council continue with updating of its Ordinances, Zoning & Planning, and continue forward with future developments.
- Mayor Palmer stated many of the areas that were identified by Ms. Guinter were addressed in the five year work program and beyond and the City will be hiring a Community Development Director within the next few months and that person will be in charge of making sure all of these areas are implemented. He also stated the City is considering a Tree Ordinance and also a Hillside Ordinance.
- Dr. Charles Burke, a new resident to the area stated he has relocated from the New York area and he is very pleased to be in a small town environment and he is very interested in Tree Protection Ordinance and is also very interested in the Environmental Protection portion of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated is also very interested in the Downtown Improvements and Historic Preservation of the area. He also stated as a new resident, he has concerns regarding transportation.
- Mayor Palmer expressed appreciation to Mr. Burke for his comments. He stated the downtown area is active under the Mainstreet Program and the Mainstreet Director. He stated many improvements have been made over the past few years in the downtown area and it is the City's desire to keep the downtown alive and vital.
- Mayor Palmer stated as a part of the Comprehensive Plan that it is necessary to submit the plan to the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for their official review. He stated once it is reviewed it will be amended to the level that either department wishes and then it will be ready for adoption by the local community.
- Mayor Palmer read the Resolution to Transmit.
- Councilman Hammond made a motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion was second by Councilman Denmon with Councilman Hammond, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

8. **Old Business: None**

9. **New Business:**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave a first reading of an annexation and zoning request of R-1 for Kevin J. Santori for a house and lot at 453 Thornwood Place.

- Mayor Palmer stated the earliest date for a public hearing would be November 12, 2007 @ 7:00 P.M.
- Mayor Pro Tem Potts made a motion to set the public hearing for that date and time. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Mayor Pro Tem Potts, Councilman Crowley, Councilman Denmon, and Councilman Hammond voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave a first reading of a taxi license request of Antonio Brito Melendez for their commercial office at 114 Erwin Street, Suite 1.
  - Mayor Palmer stated the matter could be heard on September 24, 2007 @ 7:00 P.M.
  - Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the hearing for that date and time. The motion was second by Councilman Denmon with Councilman Hammond, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Crowley, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- C. Mayor Palmer stated the city had received a request from the Georgia Department of Transportation for the City to provide a telephone line and to assist with the traffic signal for the South Calhoun Bypass.
  - Following review Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion was second by Councilman Hammond with Councilman Crowley, Councilman Hammond, Councilman Denmon, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- D. Mayor Palmer stated Gordon Central High School had requested a parade permit for Homecoming on the traditional route for October 25, 2007 at 3:30 P.M.
  - Mayor Palmer stated if the request is approved, it should be subject to DOT approval.
  - Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the Homecoming Parade for October 25, 2007 @ 3:30 P.M. subject to DOT approval. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Councilman Denmon, Councilman Crowley, Councilman Hammond, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- E. Mayor Palmer gave a first reading of a beer package license request of Hasmukh G. Patel for 703 Oothcalooga Street.
  - Mayor Palmer stated the earliest date for the hearing would be October 8, 2007 @ 7:00 P.M.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Potts made a motion to set the public hearing for that date and time. The motion was second by Councilman Crowley with Mayor Pro Tem Potts, Councilman Crowley, Councilman Denmon, and Councilman Hammond voting affirmatively, motion carried.

10. **Other Written Items Not on the Agenda: None**

11. **Work Reports:**

A. Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities

1. Director Cornwell stated the City had requested bids for the Belmont Creek Sewer Project. He stated it had been requested in three phases in order to make sure the City could fund at the best possible price. He stated the City received bids from five different companies; one submitting a bid on a single portion, however, it was not the low bid. He stated the bids of the other four companies that bid on all three phases were as follows:

- a. Strack Inc for a total of \$2,840,940.00
- b. K.M. Davis Contracting for a total of \$3,860,494.00
- c. Butch Thompson Enterprises for a total of \$3,933,595.50
- d. Mays Construction Company for a total of \$5,164,705.20

Director Cornwell stated easements have been obtained for Division 1 & 2 and by the time the contractor is ready for Division 3, all easements will be in place. He stated the City's Consulting Engineer, Peoples Inc., had checked the references of Strack Inc. and had previously worked with them and they would recommend them and their low bid.

o Following discussion Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the low bid from Strack Inc. for \$2,840,940.00. The motion was second by Councilman Denmon with Councilman Crowley, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Hammond, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

2. Director Cornwell stated he had prepared a review of rainfall for the Calhoun/Gordon County area for the last four years. He stated everyone should remember the average rainfall for our area is 52 inches a year. He stated in the year 2003-2004 it was 49.25 inches; 2004-2005 it was 64.33 inches; 2005-2006 is was 37.03 inches; 2006-2007 it was 31.24 inches and this is for the periods of September 1 – August 31 of each of those years. He stated that if you will note, the last two years are short by 36 inches of rainfall to meet our normal average.

12. Mayor Palmer inquired if there was a need to move to executive session. There was none.
13. Councilman Crowley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilman Hammond with Councilman Crowley, Councilman Hammond, Councilman Denmon, and Mayor Pro Tem Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:

  
James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:

  
Cathy Harrison, City Administrator

Resolution # \_\_\_\_

**CITY OF CALHOUN  
CALHOUN, GEORGIA**

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSMIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun, Georgia have completed the Community Agenda document as part of the 20-year Comprehensive Plan Update.

**WHEREAS**, this document was prepared according to the Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning effective May 1, 2005 and established by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, and the required public hearing was held on September 10, 2007.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun, Georgia does hereby transmit the Community Agenda portion of the 20-year Comprehensive Plan Update to the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for official review.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007.

City of Calhoun, Georgia

BY: 

James F. Palmer, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Cathy Harrison, City Administrator/Clerk