



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 2024 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilmember
Al Edwards, Councilmember
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilmember

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; and, Lacey Fuquea.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**
Welcome
Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
Invocation
Councilmember Edwards gave the invocation.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. **Amendment or Approval of Proposed Agenda**
Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**
Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of October 28, 2024. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer announced that the 2024/2025 Youth Leadership Gordon County program is in attendance. This year's class included 43 seniors which represent the four High School systems in Gordon County. ((Calhoun, Gordon Central, Sonoraville, and Georgia Cumberland-Academy). These students represent their school systems as prospective future community leaders. The class is sponsored by the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce Leadership program. It will meet for 8 months outside of the school system during the FY 24/25 school year with the mission of introducing the students to leadership opportunities within their community. Topics the class will be introduced to will include team building, community health and public safety, community economic development, community industry that includes a county tour day of local manufacturing, service and agriculture businesses, and government that includes meetings with the Calhoun City Council, Gordon County Commissioners and a trip to the Capitol to meet with the state legislative delegation. The intent is to introduce class members to the community and how community activities take place through government, local business influence and service industries. The vision of the program is that once the students graduate they will volunteer and give back to their community. This is the 29th integration of this program conducted over the past 30 years. To date, approximately 1,300 High School juniors and seniors have graduated from the program.
- B. Mayor Palmer announced that 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, 2023. 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 Jacob Fox, Director of Finance.
- C. Mayor Palmer announced that City of Calhoun offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th in observance of Thanksgiving.

6. **Council Comments**

- A. Councilmember Palazzolo submitted October reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Current Electric Department Engineering and Construction:

- The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.

ENGINEERING

New townhomes on Newtown Rd (65 units)
New townhomes on Professional Ct. (30 units)
New townhomes at Spring Valley (177 units)
The new Dollar Tree on Dews Pond Rd
The new Rocket Express Convenient Store
North King St apartments (5 units)

CONSTRUCTION

New townhomes at Old Mill (53 units)

Salacoa Subdivision (249 units)
 The Ridge at Calhoun (236 units)
 New overhead line extension on Marine Dr.
 Continued system upgrades for new growth and system reliability

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:

• NEWLY CREATED	91
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	92
•	
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	48
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	1
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	4
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	1
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	1
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	25
• NEW METER SETS	23
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	3
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	215
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The City of Calhoun’s Electrical load for October 2024 is about 31 million kilowatt hours (kWh’s).

2) Telecommunications

- Finished construction and connected six new internet customers. Disconnected two point-to-point circuits.
- Replaced switch at Street Department after two fiber ports failed.
- Filed quarterly FCC and PSC revenue reports.
- Performed major upgrade to financial software’s test databases. Departments have three weeks to test functionality. The production database is scheduled for upgrade in November.
- October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Users were presented with weekly reminders on various cybersecurity topics to boost awareness.
- Started answering survey questions on the Nationwide Cybersecurity Review. This review is one of the requirements the Police and Fire Departments have to have on file to apply for certain grants.
- Opened and closed 10 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Updated map data for Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory project.
- Generated Electric Usage Reports
- Updated data and mapping for the following:
 - Water system and meter updates

- Fiber
- Zoning
- Updated Physical addressing, building and billing information.
- Updated City and GIS web sites.

3) Building Inspections

Issued 192 permits for an estimated cost of \$7,204,041, collected \$47,016 in permit fees. This included 43 new residential, 3 residential remodel, 3 new commercial, 2 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 0 industrial remodel, 34 residential plumbing, 32 residential electrical, 25 residential HVAC, 2 commercial plumbing, 5 commercial electrical, 4 commercial HVAC, 0 industrial plumbing, and 1 industrial electrical. 549 total inspections.

4) Library

- There are 12,562 library card holders, 5,714 library visitors, and 6,831 total circulation.
- There were 205 story time attendance, 26 adult program attendance, 102 new users, 1,466 e-books, 1,650 audio books, 533 computer logins, and 4,292 Facebook visits.

B. Councilmember Edwards submitted October reports as follows:

1) Water and Sewer Operations

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 347,180,000
- Daily average: 11,572,666
- Wells: 106,240,000
- Big Springs: 57,810,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 47.3%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 46.34 %
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 38.15%
 - Rainfall for October – 4.73"

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 3.831 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 4, average suspended effluent of 11, and an average COD of 78.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 218 work orders completed, 26 new water connections, 38 water service leaks repaired, 18 water main leaks repaired, 0 water services changed to new main lines, 36 meter changes, 45 utility locates called in for work orders, 801 utility locates responses.
- 1,500 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 541 utility locates completed, 14,000 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 0 new sewer connections installed, 21 sanitary sewer connections installed by contractors, 20 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) Water and Sewer Construction

Projects Under Construction

Water & Sewer Plant Maintenance Department Building – This project consisted of constructing a 4,800 sq ft pre-engineered steel building in-between the sewer construction department and the wastewater treatment plant. This project is now completed, and the department will be moving into the newly constructed facility in the upcoming weeks.

- Northwest Booster Station Header Modification Project – This project consists of upgrading the electrical components and repairing piping configurations within the booster station to eliminate premature pump failure. The first phase of this project is completed, and the second and last phase of this project is now in the final stages.
- Brittany Dr & Water Booster Stations Standby Generator Project – This project consists of installing a stationary and portable generator at the Brittany Dr WTP for emergency standby power, and retrofitting 5 water booster stations to accept the portable generator when it isn't needed at the plant. After rebidding for a second time in hopes of increased bid participation, a recommendation to award will be provided. The portable 275 kW generator for this project has also been delivered.
- Redbud & Hwy 41 Intersection Water & Sewer Relocation – This project consists of relocating approximately 600' of water main, along with changing the elevation of a manhole to accommodate GDOT's road widening / turning lane addition project. The construction for this project is now underway.
- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project – This project consists of improving an older segment of our sewer system to reduce I&I and free up additional capacity of this sub-basin. The scope will include upgrading approx. 3,000' of sewer main from a 12 inch to 16 inches, and replacing an additional 3,000' of 12-inch pipe. This project is currently out for bid.

Projects in Design & Development

- New Fire Tower Water Tank Project – Surveying Completed.
- Water Treatment Plant Modifications
- SR 53 & Brown Lee Mtn. Water Relocation – The project is expected to let in January.
- Peters St. Phase III Water Relocation
- Curtis Pkwy Water & Sewer Relocation – Right-of-way acquisition is currently underway.
- Yancey Lift Station Rehabilitation Project
- Engineering Department is Actively Working on Approximately 35 Plan Reviews & Inspections for Developments.

**PFAS Update
October 2024**

For the month of October, the following updates concerning PFAS are as follows:

- The evaluation of exchanging GAC within the existing filter beds at the Mauldin Rd WTP has been completed. We currently have GAC in 4 out of the 16 filters at this facility, and will exchange out the remainder of the filters within a couple of months. The exchange is currently out for bid, which has a due date of November 19th. Once reviewed, a recommendation for a notice of award will be provided. Upon completion, these efforts should produce water with drastically reduced PFAS levels.
- On 05/17/2024, carbon was ordered for the Brittany Dr water treatment plant to exchange out 2 of the 4 filters containing carbon. The exchange replaced two filters that were installed last July. The first filter was exchanged in August, with the second filter finally arriving on October 30th. Improvements with current PFAS levels are expected to be around non-detectable. The exchange of the remaining two have been scheduled for October.
- All of the pilot studies have been successfully transferred to the Brittany Dr WTP. Once the piloting is completed, we will begin the selection process for the best long-term solution for both of our water treatment facilities. Piloting should conclude sometime near the end of December.
- To date, Calhoun Utilities has not violated any regulatory requirements. With our proactive measures to implement permanent solutions, Calhoun is poised to meet the 2029 deadline for compliance of the recently adopted regulations. Executing the necessary measures for temporary relief, both of our water plants will deliver water with PFAS near non-detectable.

C. Councilmember Denmon submitted October reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

- Completed 30 shop and 28 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 4 new street signs.
- Repaired a storm drain on North Industrial Drive.
- Repaired pot holes and utility cuts using 23 tons of asphalt.

Cemetery

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemeteries.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 9 grave sites.
- Sold 8 new grave spaces.

Parks Department

- The grounds crew picked up litter, mowed, trimmed bushes, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
- The maintenance crew maintained designated buildings downtown.
- Restored Christmas sleigh for decorations downtown.

Animal Control

- Housed 0 dogs and 0 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 0
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 0
- Number of cats rescued: 0
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 0
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issued: 0

2) **Recreation Department**

• **FALL PROGRAMS –**

Youth football – The 2024 youth football regular season concluded on October 26. Twenty-seven games were played throughout the month. All-star teams were selected and will participate in the GRPA District Football tournaments November 19-23. Calhoun will host the 9-10 boys district and Cedartown will host the 7-8 Boys.

Youth Soccer – The Fall Soccer season concluded on November 2. Ninety-one games were played throughout the month. All-star teams were selected in 7-8 Boys and Girls; 9-10 Boys and Girls and 11-12 Boys and Girls. The Boys teams will participate in GRPA District hosted at Cedartown November 16. The girls' teams will play in GRPA State December 6-7.

Girls Volleyball – The 10u, 12u, and 14u girls' volleyball regular season concluded October 8. Twelve matches were held at our gym in October. The GRPA District tournament for 11-12 Girls was played October 25-26. We had 2 teams participate in district and the 9-10 Black team finished District runner-up. The 9-10 team participates in district November 1 and 2.

Adult Volleyball – The adult volleyball season wrapped up October 14 with 16 matches being played during October.

Tennis – Fall leagues – Fall Combo, Fall Tennis 101 and Fall Quads.

Adult Softball – The Fall Adult league ended with thirty-eight games being played throughout the month of October.

Basketball Registration – Registration for basketball concluded October 28. Assessments were held October 24 and October 28. Drafts were held October 29 and 30. Practices began November 2.

- **RENTALS** – The following facilities were reserved throughout the month for special events:

Playground Pavilion – 16 events

Ratner Pavilion – 11 events

Community Room – 6 events

Meeting Room – 5 events

- **WEBSITE USAGE:**

CalhounRec.com
4,116 – Views
7 –post
3,422 - Users

Facebook
2,472 – Post Engagements
7 - post
4,560 - Reach

- **FACILITY MAINTENANCE:**

- 1-Prepared CHS softball field
- 2-Repainted soccer fields for weekly play
- 3-Repainted football field and flag field for weekly play
- 4-Weekly mowed/weed eat all parks
- 5-Trimmed and weeded planters –new complex
- 6-Field maintenance – 3 softball/baseball fields – new complex
- 7-Daily maintenance throughout parks

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

Rocktober Fest 2024:

Rocktober Fest, while small this first year, was a fun day in downtown Calhoun! We had a good turnout for most of the day, with a lot of families and children in attendance in the early afternoon. Local business Fit from the Core and Dorian Johnson led two hours of line dancing which turned out to be a big hit. While we only had 8 rocking chairs, they were a very popular attraction. We can see that aspect of the event growing into something special. People really enjoyed rocking in them while eating, watching the dancing or listening to music. Several shops downtown also reported having a good sales day due to the foot traffic.

There was a lot of excitement leading up to the movie but the crowd size was a bit disappointing by the time the movie began. I want to do some research and decide if that aspect of the event is worth doing again.

For events in general, I am having an issue getting a variety of reliable vendors. We have several local businesses and vendors who are great and we know we can count on, but not yet enough to get us to where we need to be. The purpose of a downtown event is to get feet in the street so locals and especially non-locals can explore (or be introduced to) our city, shop and spend time together. I have some ideas of how to fix this problem and will hopefully have a solution soon.

Website & Social Media:

We are still working on the website. Our current landing page gives the option to sign up for our mailing list and we have a growing list of subscribers.

The Holidays:

We are currently working on a joint Christmas tree lighting event with Gordon County which will be held Saturday, November 23rd from 6-8 pm.

D. Mayor Palmer submitted October reports as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 280 cases with 7 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$27,384.00
- Issued 609 warnings
- Investigated 83 highway accidents, 30 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 21
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 1
- Alarm responses - 129
- Miles patrolled: 48,779

2) Municipal Court

- Citations from Police Department-283
- Court cases docketed-259
- Probation cases assigned-12
- Probation revocations-2
- Bench warrants-3
- Failure to appear-18

3) Fire Department

Suppression Division

194 Total Calls for the month to include:

6 Fire Calls
125 Medical Calls
8 Hazardous Conditions calls (No Fire)
3 Service Calls
51 False Alarms or False Calls

- Average Total Response Times for Department:
Turn Out – 1:50
Travel – 3:49
Total Response Time – 5:39
- FF Jacob Hunter successfully completed the Georgia FLAMES Program
- Lt. Jaron Gilbert successfully completed GPSTC Structural Collapse Technician Course
- Eng. Mike Chavez, Eng. Justin Dyer, FF Brian Holcomb, Eng. Tracy Holsomback, Eng. Malik Lawrence, Eng. Marcus Pratt successfully completed GPSTC Transitional and Intrapersonal Leadership Training.
- Eng. Hall and Eng. Pratt successfully completed GPSTC Health and Safety Program Manager Training.

Inspections Division

92 Total Inspections for the month

Training Division

2289 Total Training Hours for the Department during the month.

20152.50 Total Annual Training Hours for the year.

Training Highlights:

- Taught part 1 of the CPR Program to Calhoun High School Early Education Program
- GSAR
Team Members Participated in Quarterly GSAR Training
- Continued with Recruit Class 09

Upcoming Important Training and Special Operations Activities

- November 2024 – Recruit Class Continues (Last Day November 15th, 2024)
- November 4th, 2024 – Part 2 of CPR at Calhoun High School
- November 11th, 2024 – GPSTC Acting Officer in Charge of The Fire Service
- November 18th, 2024 – Fall Emergency Management Association Summit Conference
- November 25th, 2024 – Fire Extinguisher Training

4) Safety Committee

- The safety topic of discussion this month was Workplace Safety. Safety inspections were performed at the library and all Utilities buildings.
 - Vehicle accidents: 0
 - Workers' compensation: 0

7. Zoning Hearings and Comments

Announce at this time, public hearings will be held. The public will have the opportunity to make pro and con comments with a ten minute maximum time limit for each side of the matter, with each person giving their name and address. An inquiry should be made to determine if any elected official has filed a disclosure statement regarding ownership or special interest in any of the agenda items. Zoning Land Use Maps on display in Council Chambers for Zoning Advisory Board and Council hearings.

A. Public hearing of a setback variance request of 7 feet, to vary from the required 30 foot setback to a 23 foot setback for construction of a retaining wall, for 1.01 acres, at a location of 495 Highway 53 East, by Jason Toole (Chick-Fil-A).

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Councilmember Edwards gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the Board recommended approval of the variance request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments, beginning with the applicant. There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the variance request.

- Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- B. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request of IND-G for 130.3 acres at a location of 1601 Highway 41 S SW, by PV Calhoun Real Estate LLC (Polyventive).
- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
 - City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
 - Councilmember Edwards gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the Board recommended approval of the annexation and zoning request.
 - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments, beginning with the applicant. There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the annexation request.
 - Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
 - Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning zoning request of IND-G.
 - Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the zoning request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. **Other Hearings and Comments**

9. **Old Business**

10. **New Business**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from county A-1 to R-2 for 5.879 acres at a location of Dews Pond Road, being Parcel 056A-025, by Fall Leaf Residential. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on December 5th and the public hearing on December 9th.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from county A-1 to R-2 for 3.997 acres at a location of Dews Pond Road, being Parcel 056A-017, by Fall Leaf Residential. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on December 5th and the public hearing on December 9th.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer and wine package application at a location of 118 W.C. Bryant Parkway, by Save Rite. The proposed store manager is Davis Bernier. The public hearing will be held December 9th.
- D. Mayor Palmer read a manager change request at a location of 115 Travelers Pathway, by North Indian Flame Bar & Restaurant. The prior manager was Larry Mathis and the proposed new manager is Ramandeep Kenwal. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- E. Councilmember Edwards read a manager change request at a location of 1101 Red Bud Road, by Walgreen's. The prior manager was Terry Vanderbogart and the proposed new manager is Alaina Barnette. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- F. Mayor Palmer read a request from the Purchasing Department to award the bid of \$459,250 to Lawson Electric Company for installation of generators and electrical switches for the Water System Improvements-2024 Standby Power Project using ARPA funds. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- G. Mayor Palmer read a request from the Sewer Department to surplus a 2003 4X2 backhoe. The equipment is no longer used by the department. Model: 310 SC Serial: 925607. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- H. Mayor Palmer read a request from the Sewer Department to surplus a 2003 4X4 backhoe. The equipment is no longer used by the department. Model: 310 SG Serial: 925580. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- I. Mayor Palmer read a request from the Police Department to purchase seven fire arms to be used by Police Patrol Division Officers in the amount of \$4,899.93, using the Police Federal Asset Forfeiture Account #5. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- J. Mayor Palmer read a request from the Police Department to surplus a 2015 Ford Interceptor. Mileage: 77,410 VIN# 129078. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- K. Mayor Palmer read a resolution adding membership in a fund of Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency, adding a First Responder PTSD Program in accordance with House Bill 451. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the resolution authorizing the additional coverage. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- L. Mayor Palmer stated that a motion was needed to allow him to sign an agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation to incorporate a water relocation project within their road project. GDOT has agreed to fund 35% of the utility portion. The agreement pertains to the Brownlee Mountain-Highway 53 project. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the agreement. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

11. Other Written Items Not on the Agenda

12. Work Reports

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator reported the City will hold a ribbon cutting to unveil the newly renovated building at 200 N. Wall Street. This is the old police station in downtown that will now serve as the City's Community Development building. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th at 2:00pm.
- B. Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator had nothing to report.
- C. George Govignon, City Attorney had nothing to report.

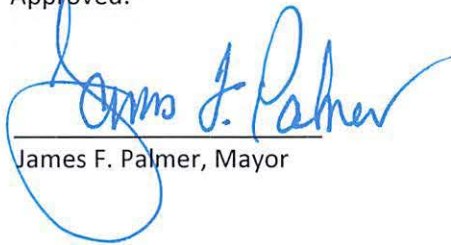
13. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

14. Motion to return to General Session

15. Motion to Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Council, Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

