

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
NOVEMBER 14, 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; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Todd Holbert, Battalion Chief; Nyala Edwards and Elizabeth Howard, Calhoun-Gordon County Library

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 Hammond made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Barton seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. The City of Calhoun offices will be closed to observe Thanksgiving on Thursday November 24th.
6. **Council Comments:**
 - A. Councilman Edwards gave the October report as follows:
 - 1) **Water, Sewer, and Engineering**
 - o The 2" Galvanized Line Replacement Project –The project as a whole is approximately 58% complete. Thor Drive, Hunt's Subdivision, Spring Valley, Davis Road, Edwards Street, Fox Street, Short Street, and West Street are all complete. The next area will be sections of Cherry Hill Drive, Sherwood Drive, Highland Ct, and Valley Circle and are under construction.

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- 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 contractor has scheduled this work within the next three weeks.
- The new NPDES permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant went into effect March 1, 2016. Several items required under the new permit have been implemented. The required Design Development Report has been submitted and approved by EPD. Design of the chemical feed system is in progress and is due by December 2016.
- The Nutrient Trading Monitoring Pilot Program is underway. The first phase, funded by a Section 319 Grant has been completed. We are working on a second 319 Grant application to continue the monitoring. EPD would like for the second phase of monitoring to include a larger scale in conjunction with the small plots. The North Georgia Water resources has agreed to help fund the in-kind match should the grant be awarded.
- New Wastewater NPDES Permit Pilot Program- Implementation of the pilot program for phosphorus removal has been completed. Two types of chemicals were used during the pilot program. The best performing was determined to be aluminum sulfate and least costly of the two.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Motor Control Center Upgrades Phase one- The new motor controls centers were delivered on October 31st. Contactor began work on November 1st.
- Piping modifications at the Wastewater Treatment Plant- Elevations and horizontal locations of existing facilities have been completed. The project is being advertised for bids and a bid opening will be on December 1st.
- Miller's Ferry Loop Water Main- The US 41 section is complete, with second phase along Millers Ferry and part of Shaw Road under construction.
- South Calhoun By-Pass utility relocations- GDOT has awarded the road project to Wright Brothers Construction. Parts of the project have been completed with other areas pending categorical exclusion from EPD.
- The 2 million gallon Glassrock Tank painting project bid opening is scheduled for November 14th.
- Second interconnect with Chatsworth on Maple Grove Church Road is underway. Chatsworth has requested the second connection at this location.
- Pisgah Drainage Area Sewer Replacement- Engineering and permitting are in progress. This project should be ready for bidding in November.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 316,620,000
- Daily average: 10,213,548
- Wells: 115,100,000
- Big Springs: 0
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 36.5%
- Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 34.7%

- Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 40.60%
 - Rainfall- 0.0"
- 3) **Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility**
- Treated a daily average of 2.363 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 3, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 59.
- 4) **Water Distribution**
- 555 work orders completed, 16 new water connections, 48 water service leaks repaired, 28 water main leaks repaired, 43 utility locates called in for work orders, 432 utility locates responses.
 - Completed installing 400 feet of 6" pipe to serve Big Springs Water with water.
 - Installed 640' of 6" ductile iron pipe along Pleasant Hill Road to serve two new connections.
 - Installed 8" tie-in for new subdivision development on Everett Springs Road. Bored road with 8" ductile iron pipe for main tie-in.
- 5) **Waste Water Collection**
- 1,650' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 270 utility locates completed, 4,700' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 2 new sewer connections installed, 4 sanitary sewer services repaired.
 - 7,000' sewer line right of way cleared.
- 6) **Building Inspection Department**
- Issued 52 permits for an estimated cost of \$4,319,250, collected \$18,893 in permit fees. This included 3 new residential, 3 residential remodeling, 2 commercial remodel/addition, 1 new industrial, 7 signs, and 156 total inspections.
- 7) **Recreation Department**
- Park Expansion Project – The punch list is being completed with only 2-3 items remaining. The remaining trees will be planted by the end of December.
 - Youth Football - The 2016 youth football regular season concluded on October 27. The Calhoun Recreation vs Gordon County Recreation games were played on Saturday, October 29. Calhoun hosted the 7-8 division and Gordon Co. hosted the 9-10 division. Calhoun Recreation won both age divisions in the City/County Championships. The all-star teams will begin post season play on November 12. Calhoun Recreation will host the district championships on Saturday, November 19.
 - Youth Soccer – The Fall soccer season concluded on November 1. The all-star teams will begin post season play on November 12. Calhoun Recreation will host both boys and girls district tournaments in all age divisions.
 - Youth Basketball – Registration for youth basketball concludes on November 11. Assessments are scheduled for November 13 and drafts November 14 and 16.

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- Calhoun Tennis: Tennis Academy open house on November 6. Pro shop opened on October 17, and junior classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Tennis league play: Flex 101; Flex Combo; Flex Mixed; 3.0 Women's, 6.0 Combo Men's and Women's, Tennis 101, Sequoyah Tennis Association has made 2 lists at the USTA National level for 3rd fastest growing tennis association.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- November 12 – 19 – GRPA District Football and Soccer
- November 11-13 – USTA – Junior Level 3
- December 3-4 – GRPA State Football –North Regionals
- December 2 – 3 – GRPA State Soccer – Girls
- December 10 – GRPA State Football - Championships

B. Councilman Barton gave the October report as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 406 cases with 8 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$54,833
- Issued 387 warnings
- Investigated 71 highway accidents, 32 private property accidents
- Provided 85 escorts
- 1,671 incident reports
- Responded to 263 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 42,679
- Responded to 4,318 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 386
- Court cases dropped- 85
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 238
- Number of Probation cases- 31
- Failure to appear- 40
- Subpoenas served- 14

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Responded to 227 calls for service for the suppression division, 18 fire incidents for damages with \$18,200 in estimated fire damage.
- Responded to 135 medical service calls.
- Responded to 11 hazardous conditions incidents.
- Responded to 24 false alarms or false calls, 32 good intent.
- Assisted with the annual Hospital 5K.
- Assisted inspections with fire safety month programs at: Home Depot, Calhoun Pre-K, Calhoun Primary and Elementary, David Daycare, First Baptist Daycare, Brighter Tomorrow Daycare, Bee Kids Academy. Total kids contacted in October were 2,516.
- Assisted in training with the Recruit School.

Training Division

- Department completed 740 hours of training.
- Training consisted of: In house training on pumps, and officer classes.
- Assisting with instructions in the Recruit School.
- The five new recruits completed class with a combined total of 2,080 hours in firefighting and hazardous materials operations. New firefighter EMT training is to begin in January and last for 6-8 months.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 66 total reported activities/inspections which included 16 annual inspections, 3 new business inspections, 15 requested inspections, 13 follow-up or re-inspections, and 14 consultations.

5) Downtown Development Authority

- The DDA director attended a Business Engagement Committee meeting; a CVB Tourism meeting and a Young Professionals meeting. The Historical Preservation Commission held its monthly meeting. There was 1 COA approved as requested by ProHealth and Wellness Center. The DDA had its regularly scheduled board meeting. The Court Street tree lights that were approved by the board last July are now installed for the community to enjoy.
- The DDA held its third Twilight Thursday. Seven downtown businesses participated in the event. October 22nd was the 11th Annual Harvest Fest. Calhoun's own The Voice contestant Ellie Lawrence preformed along with her brother Josh. There were 65 craft and food vendors. The Young Farmers & DDA are partnering once again to host Farm/City week November 17th-November 20th. There will be a proclamation signing, breakfast for farmers, children's movies at the GEM Theatre, local farm tours for high school students and more.
- The Christmas Open House is scheduled for November 20th from 1-6. The Christmas tree lighting, pictures with Santa, tractor rides & live nativity will be from 6:30-8:30.

C. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the October report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Completed 20 shop and 25 Street Department work orders.
- Installed 10 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Repaired utility cuts and pot holes using approximately 25 tons of asphalt.
- Removed dead trees and stumps from the tennis courts at the Recreation Department.
- Cleaned out ditches on Powell Street and Gallman Avenue.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites.
- Sold 14 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. Also, leaf pickup in these areas.
- 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 24 dogs and 10 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 9
- Number of cats adopted: 1
- Number of dogs rescued: 5
- Number of cats rescued: 8
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 4
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 30
- Number of bite cases: 1
- Citations issues: 0

5) Court Services and Enforcement

- 9/30/16- The following streets were maintained by inmate trash detail: East Line Street & River Street, 20 total bags of trash was collected from streets by inmate work detail. Several large miscellaneous items were also collected from the streets.
- 10/7/16 - The following streets were maintained by inmate trash detail: Spring Valley Drive, McDaniel Station Road (between 53 & 53 Spur), Mill Village Echota Street, Barrett Road. 24 Total Bags of Trash collected from streets by inmate detail. Several large miscellaneous items that were unable to be bagged were also collected.
- 10/21/16 - The following streets were maintained by inmate trash detail: Edmond Ave, Oak Street, Peters Street. Total of 26 Bags of trash collected from streets by inmate detail.
- 10/28/16 - The following streets were maintained by inmate trash detail: Curtis Parkway, a total of 29 bags of trash was picked up from Curtis Parkway.
- Total bags of trash collected by inmate detail was 99.
- Also, assisted various City Departments that may need help, such as code enforcement, police, city court, city hall, recycling, and others.

6) Calhoun Recycling Center

- Items and quantities collected: Aluminum cans 500 lbs. for \$230, Steel Cans 660 lbs. for \$19.80, OCC 236 lbs. Other item data was not yet available.

OCC & Paper Pick-ups:

<p>Judy Peterson (Volunteer)</p> <p>Liquor Warehouse</p> <p>Calhoun Farm Supply</p> <p>Calhoun Middle School</p> <p>The Wedding Place</p> <p>Coldwell Banker & Kinard Realty</p>	<p>Charry & Tom White (Volunteers)</p> <p>V.A.C.</p> <p>Wall Street Grille</p> <p>Wing Me Up</p>
<p>Ilene & CK White (Volunteer)</p> <p>Gordon Hospital Cancer Center</p> <p>ABC Liquor</p> <p>Diprima's</p>	<p>Ken Chapman (Employee)</p> <p>Langston Creative Solutions</p> <p>Children's Palace Daycare</p> <p>Gordon County Sheriff's Office & Justice Center</p>

Curbside Pick-up pilot program:

	Week 1	Week 2	Monthly Total
Bags	93	117	210
Aluminum	7 lbs.	11 lbs.	18 lbs.
Steel	10 lbs.	13 lbs.	23 lbs.
Plastic (1 & 2)	67 lbs.	71 lbs.	138 lbs.
OCC	236 lbs.	167 lbs.	403 lbs.
Mixed Paper	366 lbs.	292 lbs.	658 lbs.
Total	686 lbs.	554 lbs.	1,240 lbs.

7) Safety Committee

- o Safety topic- Seat Belt Safety
- o Safety Inspection- Water and Sewer Construction
- o Vehicle Accidents: 3- Police Department, 1- Street Department
- o Workers Compensation: 1- Fire Department, 1- Street Department, 1- Electric Department

8) Library

- o There were 10, 764 library card holders, 7,440 library visitors, and 6,335 total circulation
- o There were 120 story time attendance, 65 adult program attendance, 99 digital new users, 212 e-books, 193 audio books, 1,515 computer logins, and 1,780 Facebook visits.

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

1) Electric Department

- Construction continues at the Gordon Hill Shopping Center area, replacing poles and wire.
- Construction continues on providing permanent power to the new Family Savings and Credit Union on Curtis Parkway.
- Temporary power has been installed for the new 1st Bank of Calhoun.
- Christmas lights are being tested and replaced in Downtown.
- Materials have been ordered for replacing the street lights from City hall to Hwy 53 with LED lights. Work should begin in December.
- The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for October was 36,858,906 kilowatt hours. This is 1,280,746 more than last year.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 111
- Completed and closed- 109
- Consisting of:
 - Capital construction- 8
 - Street and security lighting-24
 - Distribution Maintenance-16
 - Outages/trouble calls- 10
 - Meter maintenance/replacement- 4
 - New customer meter sets- 7
 - Electric locate tickets processed- 217

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Installed one new internet circuit. Disconnected one internet and one point-to-point circuit.
- Started fiber construction for one internet customer.
- Have agreements for two new internet circuits.
- Started work on replacing three T1 circuits with point-to-point Ethernet circuits.
- Customer access equipment replacement project is 30% complete.
- Opened 12 and closed 15 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Continued to collect storm water data and adding to GIS.
- Updated water meter data and worked on water modeling sessions.
- Continued mapping Wastewater Treatment Plant facility piping.
- Updated zoning and fiber maps.
- Updated fire pre-plan for buildings for Fire Department.
- Updated physical building addresses with billing information.
- Updated City and GIS web sites.

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 September 2016 is at 5% and the State's is at 5.1%. The regional unemployment rate is now 5.4%. Whitfield County is 5.7%, Murray County is 6.6%, Floyd County is 5.9%, and Bartow is 5%. The average annual wages for Gordon County is the second highest in manufacturing counties and Gordon County is the sixth highest in the region at \$37,446. This can be contributable to the strong manufacturing base in our community and the other counties higher than Gordon are metro area counties.

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. There are currently 118 airplanes based at the airport. 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. Also, the airport will received 90% in Federal funding to build a parallel taxiway that will enable the airport to handle more traffic in and out. Future expansions will allow the airport to grow even more and grow the positive local economic impact. Also, the airport is home to the Life Force helicopter with a 10 year contract in place. Finally, the Airport Authority is looking at expansions of corporate 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: None

8. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the Second reading of an ordinance change of Chapter 2: Administration and Chapter 70: Personnel; Organizational Structure and Administration of Municipal Operations and Departments. Attorney Govignon state, "This is up for a second reading and consideration by the Mayor and Council. As was discussed last time, I was given the edict and therefore drafted an ordinance to fulfill the edict I had been given. I know there are some issues with some aspects of it, but I am here as a servant of the public to draft what I am instructed to do so. Therefore, I would ask for consideration tonight, or consideration how we see fit to go. All of these have been a painful experience and this one was done a little bit faster than would have normally been done, but I have dedicated a good bit of time to it and I remain open for questions." Mayor Palmer thanked Attorney Govignon for his comments and asked if anyone on the Council had questions or comments that they would like to make concerning the organizational structure presented in their packet. Mayor Palmer stated, "We have one person on the agenda to speak to those issues, but as I have said before, I would like to say a couple of words

concerning this. I think there are certainly things in there that need to be changed as it was first presented by Mr. Govignon. We talked about such things as the elimination of two finance departments that we no longer have in place. We also talked about the structure where you had 27 people that were appointed by the Mayor and Council and that was unnecessary to his thinking. I think we all agree with those things. The problem that I have with the items that have been presented is the elimination of the position of the director of utilities. I have reviewed the minutes from March up to date with what has been talked about and what has been presented, and I think there are several things in the minutes that need to be considered. One of those, as I have said before, is that it appears in there where it has been said most cities in Georgia do this, under this structure and this form of government. Well, that's true, most of them do, but I think one thing that I think needs to be considered in that is that there are 560 cities in Georgia approximately. Of those 560 cities, 50 of those cities are MEAG cities, which means Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, which means they have an electric department. Also, on top of those 50 you have the City of Dalton. I think that is very important because when we look at our budget for the City of Calhoun, we have approximately an \$82 million dollar budget. Of that budget the Electric Department is approximately \$42 million dollars of that budget. Also in utilities, we have another \$20 million dollar portion of that. So, I think all of those things need to be considered and when we look at that also, we look at the structure of all the other governments, especially the MEAG cities, and those 51 cities we are talking about. Approximately, according to the Electric Cities of Georgia, 41 of those either have a separate board, a separate authority, or a utility director. Of those who do not have that structure in place, one of them is a city of 450, one of them is a city of 800, and there are several with a population of 2,500 or less. Another thing I have seen is to streamline the organization, and as I have mentioned before the first examples that Mr. Govignon gave were the finance and the appointments with that. But when we look at streamlining the organization as the new chart shows, what we have in there is a new person at City Hall to do a lot of the things that Mr. Vickery or the position has done in the past, and what we have done with the utility manager is move somebody with 40 years experience in utilities, to a position of a professional planner. An area where he has no experience, with the same salary and same benefits. Also, it is listed in there that we owe a lot of money, which is true, we owe a lot of money, but to me with the management through the utility department to me that stresses the need for somebody who is familiar with the management of the utilities, that looks at the revenue bonds where the money is owed primarily and to match those rates up with the needs. Also, it has been mentioned that 80% of the senior management will be leaving in the next few years. Certainly that is true, but I think it is more important that you have people in place to assume these positions when the senior management retires or leaves. I think we are currently facing one of those opportunities right now. In the next three to six months we expect to be losing a department head. There is already a plan in place for replacing that position, and when we look at things with that it may be a little bit different structure than we have currently. Mr. Barton's nephew is one of the candidates for one of the positions and he has been with the City for about four years I would say. So there are opportunities, he is highly qualified and a college graduate and does a good job and is certainly recommended by the department. But it shows

opportunities for a lot of people regardless of the length of time they have been here. One of the most important things I think that I would like for the Council to consider in their determinations is the value of the past and present utility managers. We go back and I say past and present, about 18 years ago we had a lawsuit. I should say a successful lawsuit that was brought about because of the utility manager that was in place at that time. He challenged the rates that the City of Calhoun were receiving through MEAG and he had the rates and successful in the lawsuit. We went from one of the highest rates in the state to some of the lowest, which we still maintain at this time. Probably, over the period of time that has probably saved the City of Calhoun and the rate payers \$30-40 million dollars and that would have been passed on to the rate payers if it had not been for the position of the general manager of utilities. Recently the utility manager renegotiated a contract with purchase of power that will save the City \$1.3 million dollars. This will also save the industry, especially the local larger users, significant dollars as we move forward. As I said before, there are many areas of financial management that he is involved in. I go back and I look at things that have been accomplished by the utility manager. When you look at Brittany Drive, which supplies basically 43% of our water, and that facility would not be there today if it were not for the thoughts of the utility manager and the planning that put that in place. Today that is permitted at 11.8 million gallons per day of water. It is not used all the time because there are certain State restrictions concerning the amount we can withdraw from the spring, which is determined by the flow. We also have a \$2.5-3 million dollar MEAG substation on McDaniel Station Road that has recently been completed and it would not be there if it were not for the utility manager, and I think that provides a certain amount of economic and industrial development in the area that we are talking about. Also concerning economic development and industrial development, Mr. Bentley is here, I can remember going to the Engineered Floors' groundbreaking. Mr. Bentley in his conversation and his talking about things at the groundbreaking and the reason they are locating in the City of Calhoun, one of them had to do with electrical supply and his talking with the electric director or the general manager at that time, that was one of the determining factors of Engineered Floors being in Calhoun and we thank you for that. Also, I would like to say that 6 or 8 months ago, Mr. Vickery went to a meeting that I mentioned at the last meeting and I didn't say all of it. The meeting was with our largest employer in Calhoun and Gordon County. This meeting was very successful, as a matter of fact about two days after the meeting I had a visit from Mr. Bill Thompson who is the attorney for the Industrial Development Authority, and the purpose of the visit was that he said, "I just want you to know what an outstanding job Mr. Vickery did in that meeting." The company was about to move over 200 jobs out of Calhoun to another facility that they had. The meeting was very successful and after the meeting they decided to leave those jobs in Calhoun. What does that mean to the City of Calhoun and the economic development as we move forward? We had a study done by the University of Georgia maybe about a year ago and it was concerning 100 jobs. Of the 100 jobs, the wages that would be lost was \$5.2 million dollars, and the economic impact on Calhoun and Gordon County would have been \$27 million dollars. This is for 100 and we are talking about 200. Also, I would like to say there was also a meeting last week with members of the Industrial Development Authority, and certainly Mr. Vickery was

included in that, and after the meeting one of the members at the meeting told me, "I didn't realize how smart Mr. Vickery was and he really knows what it's all about." And was really bragging on the job that he did once again. I will close and turn it over to Mr. Crowley, and would like to close with a small comment. I was talking with a department head the other day, and in the discussion it came up about this and I rarely talk about it, but somebody else asked about it and he answered and talking to me as well and he said, "Well, you know one thing about it is it will leave a void in the City." This is a full time job, speaking of the general manager of utilities. And the last statement really stays with me and that is the statement he made, "We'll get by, but we'll get by." We have never been satisfied with just getting by. You have to look at the plan ahead, you have to do the things that are necessary and you have to move forward with everything that needs to be considered. I think we are a leader in the state in our utilities, and I would like to see it remain that way and part of the reason that we are there is the position that sits over at this table. I have said way too much, but I think it is important that people here realize and have an idea of what the Council faces and the decisions they will have to make and with that, Mr. Crowley." George Crowley stated, "Thank you to the Mayor and Council for allowing me to speak to you tonight. I know that you have been considering this for nine months, and probably in excess of nine months. I would like to share some reasons of my objection to the elimination of the director of utilities position, and I will give you some reasons why I think that. Secondly, what I would like to do is just tell you about some studies some others have done when facing the same situation that you are facing tonight, and what happened with them. Calhoun Utilities began probably when the wells were dug in downtown Calhoun a long time ago. They were public wells and they were meant to quench fires and also thirst. We have come a long way since then. As the Mayor said, about \$60 million dollars for the budget for the utility department. About \$20 million dollars for the City, so you see it's a major issue. Utilities have morphed during all that time. At that point it was more for just the quality of life and things like that. What has happened now is that utilities have become competitive. When you look at who we go up against when we are trying to get the big loads and things like that, we don't just get those things. We have to go up against people like Georgia Power, North Georgia Electric, Oglethorpe Power, and lots of other folks. There are even now some investor owned utilities for water and they are actually taking over water systems, because it is not simple managing water systems anymore. It is not easy to do what they do and it's again something that is moving in that direction and it's getting more competitive in all that we do. My friend Tom Bundros is the CEO of Dalton Utilities and I am taking some of this from what he has told me before. Most people think that utilities is a cash cow and it does return some, but it also uses a lot of money as well. You have to keep up your infrastructure, and we have been very good in the City of Calhoun to do that. I think a part of that is that we have had a director of utilities and that was their job, it's what they did. He also says, "Utilities are not a simple business and evidence has shown that most city utilities don't operate well when they are run as a governmental entity rather than a business." Our utilities are such a large part of our City, that this decision that you are going to make I guess tonight, will actually, could possibly affect our economic development efforts, affect our schools. It is a big issue, our overall quality of life. I had a class about a year ago and Dr. Walt McBride was the teacher and some of you are old enough and

may remember the McBrides when they were here. Claude was his dad and he was pastor at Belmont and his wife Gail was a teacher at Calhoun High School and she taught me in high school. Walt now works for the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. He teaches classes on ethics, management, and leadership and things like that. He said something I want you to consider in your vote tonight. He talked about the public good, and he talked about the private good. I will define the private good for you first because to me it is not a public good. A public good is governed much more differently than private good. Public good would be things like police, fire, anyone is able to access that. It doesn't matter if you pay the highest taxes in the City of Calhoun or whether you don't pay any taxes in the City of Calhoun. It doesn't matter if you are the Mayor and City Council or someone who is just driving through; you are going to get treated the same and take from that public good as much as you like. I guess I am telling you that story because that is why it is so difficult for one manager to control both general government and utilities. It was about four years ago, there was a municipal utility in Texas that was considering how they were going to manage their utilities and they were specifically concerned with their electric utilities when they did it. They went through several steps. They studied other municipalities of all sizes and one of those municipalities they studied included having one city manager of government and utilities did not work because of four things: political interference, lack of consistent policy direction, lack of consistent management, and a failure to operate the system on a business like basis. They also went to their financial advisors and they said: how should we structure it from a financial standpoint that makes sense. Financial advisors told them that separating the two entities would be a positive for the rating agencies and the less politics that was subjected into the process, the more favorably the utilities would be viewed by the ratings agency. It also used a company in the third phase of this called Angelo Economics, which develops economics strategies for cities. They found that separation and done correctly is more efficient, more focused, less political, and it takes more expertise; and if the general fund transfer issue was mishandled there could be huge problems for the city. Right now we have increased the transfer, it was at 10% and we have increased it another 1% and that can spell trouble for the city at some point in time in economic development and those kind of issues. The fourth thing that they did is they had public forums and they asked folks what they thought about this. Basically in the public forums they said generally that city government in a bureaucratic political system was ill suited to manage a competitive business. With all that said, in my way of thinking, it is a pretty simple decision that you have to make tonight and maybe one of the easiest that you have to make, because there is really no good that we can see that can come from this and there is lots of bad things that could happen. So I would ask and hope that you be unanimous tonight and turn this down tonight basically because of the elimination of the position. Thank you." Mayor Palmer thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments. Mayor Palmer stated, "This is the second reading and it has always been the policy of the City to allow anybody to speak for or against any of this proposal one way or the other. At this time I would ask if there is anyone in the audience that would like to speak additionally for or against the proposal. Steve Powell of Crestmont Drive in Calhoun stated, "I have been a city resident for 44 years. I moved to the city during Mayor Palmer's first term I think or maybe the second term. In all seriousness, I

come to you tonight as a layman speaking of generalities and not particulars. Following my friend George Crowley is a big step and I can't do it. In any event, I stand in opposition to the elimination of the office of the general manager of utilities, and I stand in support of my friend Larry Vickery. We have a good system, we have people in place who do their jobs and I don't think we could find anyone any better suited for the GM of utilities than Mr. Vickery. His intelligence, no one in this room I think or in this area, knows any more about rate structure, negotiations and all the attendant things that go with being utilities director than he does. In conclusion, I would respectfully ask the Council that they would not consider this and to table it indefinitely. Thank you." Mayor Palmer thanked Mr. Powell for his comments. Mayor Palmer asked for additional questions or comments. Trey Pierson stated, "I have been a resident here since we moved here in fourth grade. All I want to say is change is not bad. We have four people that we elect up here, five people with the Mayor, but three Councilman and one Councilwoman that I am going to put my faith and trust in. They know what they are doing. They have a plan, they see the long term, they see the vision. Mr. Vickery is not going anywhere, I think for two years, we have his expertise until he retires. So, I just wanted to say change is not a bad thing. Thank you very much." Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated, "This decision has not been a quick decision. We have debated it for nine months. We needed to debate it, we are having experienced qualified managers who are going to leave and Mr. Vickery is leaving in one year. We are not leaving the utilities out in the cold to be neglected and abused. We understand the value that they bring to this community. You have heard me talk about it tonight. We have a very distinct difference of opinion and that is ok. We had George Crowley when he was on here, he and I had a lot of hearty debate and I respected him and I hope he respected me also, just had a difference of opinion. We are going to be going back to a system that we had in place here in Calhoun, Georgia when we had the height of our growth in industry. I know there is a lot of facts and figures I could share. There is no reason, it would not do anything for economic development in this community to talk about our negatives, and we do have a few in the past. I will be glad to discuss those individually one on one as I have with several of you. We are going to be making decisions to move forward with quality management that is going to grow this community for the next 20 years. Paul Worley will be basically serving as the Assistant City Manager and his primary responsibility will be working with the director of electrical, Jeff Defoor who handles the electrical department, period. And Jerry Crawford, the director of water and sewer. Those are our two entities that exist for utilities and those men are going nowhere. Yes, we will lose people in both their departments and eventually we will lose those two men. But we are going to have a succession plan. Larry Vickery is going to be with us one year, I don't think he is going to be hiding under a desk anywhere. I think if he is needed, he will be the first person to step up and offer advice as it is needed. But you have to grow the next level of management. I don't know if any of you noticed that we had an election in this nation last week. It drove me crazy, I am sure it did you too. I remember Dr. Charles Stanley, you may know him he is a Baptist minister, First Atlanta Baptist. His son Andy Stanley did a sermon two or three weeks ago that really caught my ear. It was to every one of us, and it was quit scaring the children. No matter what happens, the world is not coming to an end and we will move forward. That is what is going to happen in the City of Calhoun. I see Diane

Kirby out here and her dad was instrumental in the recreation department here in Calhoun, Georgia. Billy Bearden's name is on the building. Billy was phenomenal, but Billy is no longer with us, and we moved on to the next manager and now we have the next manger. You saw the great pictures of the recreation department. We will do the same thing here with all of these transitional moments that we have, every one of them. It won't be what all of us want. The bad thing about politics and the bad thing about communities and government is usually everybody does not get their way. But it doesn't mean you are throwing the baby out with the bath water. We are still going to have an electrical department that I will be reading about advancement in the next time we meet, because Jeff and his crew know how to run that. That is a pass through service. Yes, \$250 million dollars is what we owe for Vogtle 3 and 4. But for you industry leaders, if there was to ever be a cap and trade or a carbon tax placed on emissions, you can be glad you are in the City of Calhoun that is 52% green, I think Jeff, that was the last number I saw, it changes a little bit every month. But 52% green, because we get our power from nuclear sources and hydroelectric services. We transitioned there, we are positioned for the next 50 years. We are so well positioned and have sold off a lot of that, George you remember that, we sold off a lot of that electrical energy and let other help pay for it. But gentleman and ladies, God forbid a disaster was to ever happen, we couldn't liquidate every asset we have in utilities and pay that debt off. It is going to come back to government, it is going to come back to the tax payer. We just need to be sure we are using managers, making the decision, and the next level of managers. Paul just finished his master's degree in public administration. This young man found a half a million dollars that we had done in the spirit of economic development in a tax abatement to one of our industries that nobody bothered to go back and pick up. And through his abilities, he discovered that and got it back on the tax books. We are going to continue to have low rates. We are going to continue to have dependable utilities that industry today and industry tomorrow can count on, can bank on. But we have to do a better job with our assets. We have a 16 million gallon waste treatment plant, to nobody's harm, but if you look at the report today, out of that 16 million gallons we ran 2.75 million gallons through it. Gentleman, you people who have manufacturing facilities; can you run your facilities at 30%? I don't think so. I can't run the chicken plant at 30%. We have to maximize the tools we have in the tool box and that will come by having good managers that manage our assets. We need politicians out of the mix. There is not a single one of us who really has business being involved in the day to day activities. That is not what the charter says, it is not how we are charged. We are part time people and if we will get out of the way and let the managers do the job, adjust the policies and procedures as they need to be adjusted as times change, just like the people 20 years ago did and the people 40 years ago did. We will be positioned in a great place. Now I can talk data with you all day long. I will be more than happy to for anyone who wants to talk about it. Everything I have got is pulled straight out of the city archives. None of it is crafted in my own handwriting or by my own design. It is our data, but I am looking forward to moving forward. I am looking forward to making a difference in this community. A lasting difference and handing it to the next generation that will manage it the way they need to, for the next generation of people in our community. That is all I have to say. It wasn't scripted, didn't have it written, it comes from the heart like every one of my comments do." Mayor Palmer

stated, "Mr. Hammond has made that statement before and I certainly appreciate that, but being here for a long time, I don't think anybody has questioned what my feelings coming from the heart and the concerns with the City of Calhoun. I agree with a lot of things that he said concerning management and moving forward in a positive direction. I just think that the way to do that, the key part of that, is the general manager of utilities. Not Paul Worley who has been in his position as city clerk for five years maybe and not worked with utilities at all. Is he in a position to provide the leadership necessary to move the city utilities forward in a positive direction? That is my last comment and so if there are no other comments. You have seen the presentation and heard the comments and the recommendations and with that I would ask if there is a motion to approve the Organizational Structure and Administration of Municipal Operations and Departments as presented by Mr. Govignon." Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve. Councilman Barton gave a second. Mayor Palmer asked for any discussion. Mayor Palmer then called for a vote. Councilman Hammond, Councilman Barton, and Councilwoman Palazzolo voted yes. Councilman Edwards voted no. Mayor Palmer stated, "The motion passes 3 to 1. I would certainly invite everybody back to another meeting as I said I would do in the past, I certainly intend to veto this as it moves forward. I think it is bad business for the City of Calhoun. I think even in Councilman Hammond's comments, I think many of those comments showed the exact need for a utility general manager. And with that the motion passes and we will move forward."

9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer stated that Diane Kirby would like to address the Mayor and Council concerning the proposed new Police Station building and other City concerns. Diane Kirby stated, "Thank you Mayor and Council for allowing me to speak. I live at 125 Creekridge Drive Fairmount, Georgia and work with Coldwell Banker Kinard Realty in Calhoun. What I want to address is the issue of the building for the police department. The city police department, in my opinion, should be downtown such as the city fire department. I have spoken with many of the business owners as well as many citizens and they all believe the police department should be downtown. The land for the police department at the present time is tight, as you know I worked there. Also, the building next door, which is the old Maddox law building, actually just went back on the market today at \$159,000. So there is land next to the police department where it currently is and it would be available for the police department to stay at the location it is currently at. You could easily build multiple floors and have plenty of office space for everyone that is needed and you would have parking that is needed for the police department. Most of the cars now at the police department go home with them. So basically only the ones that are your backups stay there, so it's not an issue of the number of patrol cars that are actually on the lot 24/7. The new Gordon municipal building is across the street, the court house is within a 100 plus yards of the police department, the municipal court is in walking distance, and the city fire station number one is within five blocks of the present police department. What I am asking is to consider the location that the police department is at, which is centralized and that is what the citizens of the city

and the county want to see is to stay in a centralized location downtown. And while I am on downtown, I also want to speak about the caboose. The city has spent approximately \$30,000 plus dollars on a ramp for the caboose. It is my understanding at this time is that the caboose has yet to be used for any purposes whatsoever. The curb appeal of the ramp has definitely taken away from the Depot. The concern I have going forward with the caboose is that I am afraid it will be used as a facility that will be used for rent for special events; and even worse it will allow the vendor who rents the caboose to purchase a special event permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages. Any building or land that is owned by the City of Calhoun should not allow any type of alcoholic beverages to be sold and make a profit. In today's world lawsuits run rampant. Individuals are looking at the city as having deep pockets, which is just setting yourself up for failure. So I think there needs to be an issue addressed and there needs to be some type of code that is put into effect that the caboose cannot be used for special events that would allow any type of alcoholic beverage to be sold at that location. Also, my last concern is with the Calhoun, Georgia Code of Ordinances. The specialty chapter which is alcoholic beverages, code section 6-41: City officials and immediate family ineligible for license. I am going to read you the code: It shall be unlawful to grant a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages to any elected official, city department head, city employee, or such person's immediate family. It shall further be unlawful for any elected official, city department head, city employee, or such person's immediate family to own any whole, partial or beneficial interest in any license to sell alcoholic beverages in the city. Having read that code it brings me to the question of why City Councilwoman Palazzolo is able to benefit from the sale of alcoholic beverages. On December 22, 2015 Mrs. Palazzolo wrote a personal check to the City of Calhoun in the amount of \$1,500. In the area on the check where it says 'for' was written, for Velo beer/wine license and she personally signed the check. This is clearly a violation of the local law and the section 6-41 that governs the sale of alcoholic beverages. This code is a law and this law has been broken. Code section 6-58(c) covers the area of grounds and procedure for suspension or revocation. Which I have here, but this code is a very long code as you can see and I am not going to read this whole code to you." Mayor Palmer asked, "What was the number again?" Diane Kirby stated, "It was 6-58(c) as in Charlie. I'm sure that each of you on the City Council are aware of this code or you should be since it is a part of the city code sections and it is a part of the law. I have sat here tonight listening to you talk about the concerns of the city, your heart felt concerns for the city. So my question is why is the City Council or the City Attorney not address this issue prior. I hope I brought some issues before you that will give you some concerns and that you will look into it. Thank you for allowing me to speak." Attorney Govignon stated, "If I might just answer that, it was brought to my attention and as soon as the election was over there was a meeting and the decision was made and someone else applied for a license to the property. Now, doing some research as to whether that ordinance needs to be changed has been a process, but unfortunately I have been tied up with a 45 page administrative ordinance. For example, there needs to be some reach for if I, for example, own a strip mall with my brother-in-law and Hooters wants to go in, we may be coming into some Constitutional issues. I am not saying I have an answer to that, I am going to tell you though that it has been brought to my attention, and I have been researching it." Diane Kirby stated, "I can also tell you

that several years back Charlie and I both had a convenience store and we applied for a license and we were denied immediately." Attorney Govignon stated, "You don't have to tell me that, I was here when that happened." Diane Kirby stated, "So I think it needs to be looked into." Attorney Govignon state, "And I am informing you that it has been and is." Councilwoman Palazzolo stated, "Mr. Mayor is it ok for me to speak for a minute, since this was all directed toward me." Mayor Palmer stated, "Sure." Councilwoman Palazzolo stated, "Thank you very much for coming out and thank you for being so concerned about my business. One, as far as the caboose, if you look back at pictures, it looks a lot nicer than what it looked like before. Two, there has never been any discussion as far as having any alcoholic beverage sold out of that caboose. The whole point of it was to bring more people downtown and to provide ice cream, deserts, and maybe a sandwich, maybe a hot chocolate. So that we have people when they finish a game at Calhoun High School, can walk over and enjoy something downtown, instead of downtown being dead. As far as what is happening at the Velo Vineyard, that was discussed, in fact it was brought up that illegally my information was leaked out to the paper. My bank routing number and my bank account number was given to the paper. In addition to that, the paper who did an open records request, requested one document. So that tells me that someone internal gave out that information. Also, it is my constitutional right to make a living. So if you look at Atlanta, you look at Manuel Maloof, he has been a commissioner for Atlanta and been extremely successful, he owns Manuel's Tavern. I no longer hold the license, David Burton holds the license. And if you want to know why I wrote a personal check to David Burton for that to occur; it is because I asked him one month before Christmas if he would take over that license. In the City of Calhoun it is \$1,900 to transfer a license over, and out of my heart I could not ask for that. Since I got to Calhoun, I have done nothing but do things for the good of this community. I feel attacked right now, and that is perfectly fine, and I can take it. What I do see, is I see a lot of former politicians sitting in here, who had to come in and discuss all of these things that have been discussed prior to now. It just kind of makes me wonder, a lot of things make me wonder, how the paper was told to request one specific document. If it had been an open records request, fantastic. Also, it very much concerns me that we have so many former politicians that had their hand in the pot, that had so much to say about the change that is about to occur, which is going to be good for our community. I am also concerned about the fact that I got several phone calls, emails, just people asking me on the street why we had gone up on the transfer, the one percent transfer, and why their utility bill had gone up, which is incorrect. Somebody had told them that. And why people were questioning why someone by the name of Matt Worley, that has no government experience, no utilities experience, was going to be taking over our utility department. That concerns me. I have every confidence in Mr. Peterson; I have every confidence in Mr. Worley, and I know they are going to do a wonderful job. I have every confidence in all the managers, as long as they continue to do what is best for our community. I do have concerns about how passionate people feel about this change; and I do feel like right now, everything is directed at me. And that is pretty funny, because I am new on the Council, and I am the one apparently that will be that extra vote. So I am just wondering why all of this wasn't brought up before now. Thank you." Attorney Govignon stated, "On a side note, to lay one concern, the special events ordinance

does not allow for the use of the caboose. There are designated areas, which are parking lots or the parks that could be used. The caboose is not contained in those areas and I would easily issue that opinion. We would have to amend the ordinance to allow that to happen, it couldn't just happen tomorrow and I am not looking for that to happen. At least I have not been given instructions to do so, it is not my call, it is their's." LaShonda Denmon Parker stated, "I understand that we have to be on the list because my dad was a former City Councilman, but something Mrs. Palazzolo said touched me. I live at 500 Riverside Drive in Calhoun and I work for Rome City Schools. That being said, Mrs. Palazzolo you touched on a part that to me concerned me, because like you said you were taking it personal on her direct point. You made it personal when you made the comment why so many former politicians are here. Number one, my daughter attends Bees Academy, which is what Mr. Vickery is over. Him and his wife has a business there. That being said, when my daughter comes in and sees him she says, "Hello!", or whatever, so I knew when this was going to be on the board, I asked my dad to attend with me. Just like I would any other thing. So when you come at my dad I felt that was personal and a little unnecessary, but I just wanted to make that statement. Thank you." Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated, "Let me make one more comment. Change is tough isn't it? We have a lot of emotions that we really, I wish we could not have. I wish we could just go on and do business. We are going to continue to change as a community. When our group leaves, when our baby boomer group leaves, it is going to continue to change and it doesn't necessarily mean it's the end of the world when it does. Yes, there will be some things that we may have done in the past that we won't be doing in the future. The decision on the police station is already made, already voted, and the property is already been engineered and the deeds have already been transferred, I believe haven't they Mr. Thompson. We have moved on with that, it is in the past and a lot of these things are going to be in the past. Now, just like last Tuesday, there will be an election next year. I made the observation last week that we wanted as a Council, and we were unanimous on this decision, do a resolution to put term limits on last week's ballot, so that all you voters, I assume all of you voted last week, had the opportunity to choose whether we were mandated under term limits. Guys, I believe in it, I really do. I think a quarter of a century in politics is ridiculous. And I raised my hand to be the very first person to step down and do that. I am not going to be here forever. I have no desire to be here forever. I hope some of you who have energy and excitement and passion will step up. If you don't like the way government is working, be a servant and step up. Be in an election, get elected, and then sit up here and make the decisions, because no matter what decisions we make, everybody is not going to go out those doors happy. It is just not going to happen. We are going to do the very best we can, we are going to debate it heartily. Nine months is a long time to debate something folks, that is almost a year. Then we are going to make a decision and we are going to move on. Mayor Palmer made the observation, he will veto it here in a few weeks. And this Council will override that veto, three to one I guess, I thought we might be unanimous, but we weren't. But we will override the veto and we will move on and we will move into whatever comes next. Election time, when is qualifying? Next March? Next April? Step up, go for it." Mayor Palmer stated, "Thank you for those comments and we thank you Mrs. Kirby for your concerns as well."

- B. Administrator Peterson reviewed the 4th quarter financial reports for Fiscal Year 2016. The General Fund revenues came in at 99%. One of the short falls in revenues was in local option sales taxes, which have been down since the energy tax exemption and the new motor vehicle tag tax. The Administration budget came in at 119%, but this was due to the transfer to the Electric Department for the lighting of the Exit 312 project. This project is being paid back by the hotel/motel tax. Municipal Court was over budget due to legal fees in the Walker vs City of Calhoun case. The Police Department was under budget, the Fire Department came in at budget, and Public Works came in under budget. Also, the City has a new investment strategy and made investments with its reserves and received \$8,000 this past year instead of paying bank fees. The net positive change in the fund balance was \$204,890, which is a very good position. Under the special funds, the Hotel/Motel tax was \$148,000 over the original budget. One concern as was mentioned before, is the concern with SPLOST, E-SPLOST, and LOST not meeting the budgeted numbers. Water/sewer fund had very strong revenues and held the line on spending on projects and other cost saving measures. The net income was about \$2.8 million. The Electric Department had record breaking revenues at almost \$40 million and expenses of \$36.6 and a net income of \$3.4 million. The Telecommunications Department had a net income of almost \$300,000. These numbers are very good for a year-end report.
- C. Mayor Palmer read a request by the Calhoun Police Department to withdraw \$500.00 from the asset seizure account #1 and donate the proceeds to the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce's Drugs Don't Work program in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Councilman Hammond made a motion to move the second City Council meeting in December from December 26th to December 19th. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Also, it was announced that there will be no work session for the December 19th City Council meeting. Also, no work session for the November 28th City Council meeting due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- E. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of C-2 for 0.46 acres at a location of 106 Erwin Street by GAH Properties, LLC. (Ronnie Holbrook). The Zoning Advisory Board is scheduled for December 8, 2016. The Public Hearing will be on December 12, 2016.
- F. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer and wine pouring license request by Jose L. Estrada D/B/A: El Sol Restaurant at a location of 188 W. C. Bryant Parkway. Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the public hearing for December 12th. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- G. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer and wine package license request by Krupal Patel D/B/A: Any Salvage Groc & Tobacco at a location of 637 Oothcalooga Street. Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the public hearing for December 12th. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- H. Mayor Palmer read a Pawn Manager Change request by Check into Cash of Georgia, LLC at a location of 136 Belmont Drive, Suite 13. The prior manager was Erik Smith and the proposed manager is Tammy Denise Cox. Councilman Hammond made a

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

- I. Mayor Palmer read a Beer, Wine, and Liquor Pouring Manager Change request by Neighborhood Restaurant Partners, LLC. D/B/A: Applebee's at a location of 1008 Highway 53 SE. The prior manager was Steven Jones Smith and the proposed manager is Brian Christopher Johnston. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the manager change request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- J. Mayor Palmer read a Beer and Wine Pouring Manager Change request by Dub's High on the Hog BBQ, Inc. at a location of 349 South Wall Street. The prior manager was Jeff Erwin and the proposed manager is Monte Erwin. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the manager change request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- K. Mayor Palmer read a Beer and Wine Package Manager Change request by LSAA, LLC D/B/A: Sam's Mart #530 at a location of 931 Highway 53 South. The prior manager was Melinda Espinosa and the proposed manager is Lauren M. Askew. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the manager change request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- L. Mayor Palmer stated that the following Annual Business License renewals should be reviewed by the Council and would be eligible for action at the next meeting.

Beer, Wine, and Liquor Package

- Liquor Mart
- Party Liquor
- Warehouse Liquor Store
- Red Bud Road Liquor
- ABC Liquor
- Calhoun Liquor

Beer and Wine Package

- Circle K Stores - 702 E Hwy 53 SE
- Circle K Stores - 1310 Hwy 41 N
- Kroger
- Wal-Mart
- Ingles
- ABC Convenience
- Aldi Inc
- Rite Aid - 910 S Wall St
- Rite Aid - 1101 Red Bud Rd
- CVS Pharmacy Inc
- Food Outlet, IGA
- R & R Grocery
- Food Lion
- A Knight's #2
- Racetrac

- Sam's Mart

Beer & Liquor Pouring

- El Rayos

Beer and Wine Pouring

- Dub's High on the Hog BBQ Inc

Beer, Wine & Liquor Pouring

- Ruby Tuesday
- Longhorn
- El Nopal Calhoun, Inc
- Applebee's

Beer Package

- LN Food Mart
- N Wall BP
- Calhoun Food & Tobacco
- J J's Package Store
- A Knight Hi Tech
- El Sol Hispanic Grocery
- MEGA Petroleum, Inc
- Little Giant

Beer and Wine Pouring Theatre

- Calhoun Gordon Arts Council

Combination Beer Package/Pouring and Liquor Pouring at a Private Club

- American Legion Post 47

Pawn

- Corner Pawn
- Titlemax of Georgia Inc
- National Title Pawn of Calhoun
- D & S Pawn
- Instant Cash Loans on Car Titles
- Title Exchange & Pawn of Calhoun Inc
- Check into Cash of Georgia

Taxi

- Taxi Express
- Boricua Taxi Cab
- Taxi Edwin
- Taxi Tacana
- Taxi Sigi
- Taxi Chapin
- Taxi Max

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

A. General Manager Larry Vickery

- General Manager Vickery stated that due to the fire problem and the drought, the Environmental Protection Division of the State of Georgia (EPD) will be escalating the drought level from level one to level two, which is more stringent. Some of the things that will take place will be you can't wash your car. You can go to the car wash, which recycles and recirculates the water. Several other things include glasses of water will be provided at restaurant to customers only upon request. We already have rates in place that affect the usage as you go up the price goes up instead of down for residential users. We will not suspend street cleaning as of yet since that is a public safety issue. Leak detection and repair program is already in place, and monetary penalties for excessive outdoor water use. You will be able to water your lawns as follows: Outdoor irrigation for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants, as described in Rule 391-3-30-.03(1)(a), shall be limited to two days a week on an odd-even schedule. Even numbered addresses may irrigate on Wednesday and Saturday between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Odd numbered addresses may irrigate on Thursday and Sunday between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Jerry Crawford stated that level two is not official from EPD yet, but they told us it is coming this week or next week. At that time we will put it on our website, social media outlets, radio, and newspaper. Mr. Vickery stated that was one of the other requirements and we will meet all the State's requirements.

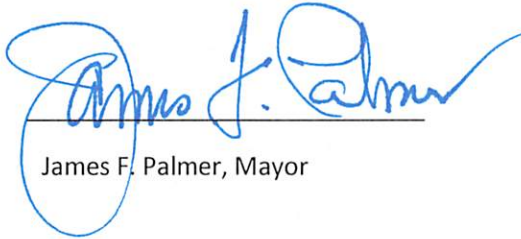
12. Brandi Owczarz stated, "Mayor Palmer may I speak?" Mayor Palmer stated, "Yes ma'am." Brandi Owczarz stated, "I am the editor at the Calhoun Times and I just wanted to address something. I needed to look through my notes and you guys had gone on to the next point. So I believe it was mentioned concerning your paperwork for your business, Jackie, that we did a records request, which we did, but it was due to you reporting on a social media outlet that we had inaccurately reported your involvement with David Burton. After you had asked me to make sure I knew you voted a certain way because of that. So I immediately did-" Councilwoman Palazzolo stated, "That I didn't vote." Brandi Owczarz stated, "Yes, I'm sorry, that you didn't vote, which is what we recorded. So we did a records request, not just for a certain, but for any paperwork involving Velo Vineyard. Business licenses, everything. I emailed you about it, I left you a voice mail, I believe I sent you a social media message.

None were ever returned, but that is my right as the media. Councilwoman Palazzolo stated, "And my lawyer told me that I didn't need to respond, because there was a threat in all of those notes." Brandi Owczarz stated, "Well, no there was no threat, but I just wanted you to know the reason we did that." Councilwoman Palazzolo stated, "The only thing that was brought to my attention was my check that was given to you with-" Brandi Owczarz stated, "No, I have the records request and everything. I asked for all documents. I have business licenses, who applied for them, I have many documents." Councilwoman Palazzolo stated, "Good job, thank you."

13. Councilman Barton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hammond with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:

Submitted:



James F. Palmer, Mayor



Paul Worley, City Clerk