

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
JUNE 13, 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: Paul Worley, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Dr. Michele Taylor, Calhoun City Schools Superintendent; Dee Wrisley, CCS Finance Director; Tony Swink and Alvin Long, Calhoun Board of Education Members

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
 - A. Mayor Palmer gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the May 23, 2016 Executive Session minutes. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer reminded the public that the next City Council meeting will be on June 20th to allow the Mayor and Council to attend the annual GMA Conference. Also, the work session preceding the meeting would be this Thursday and has been canceled.
 - B. The Odyssey of the Mind Team recognition will be conducted at the June 20th meeting. Mayor Palmer congratulated the team for placing second at the Worlds competition in Ames, Iowa.
6. **Council Comments:**
 - A. Councilman Edwards gave the May report as follows:
 - 1) **Water, Sewer, and Engineering**
 - o The 2" Galvanized Line Replacement Project –The project as a whole is approximately 48% complete. Thor Drive, Hunt's Subdivision, and

Spring Valley have been completed. The Davis Road off Newtown Road is under construction.

- Flocculation and Sedimentation Control Project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant- The project has been completed except for a failure in a section of piping, which will be corrected by the contractor.
- The new NPDES permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant went into effect March 1, 2016. We have twenty-four months to have everything in place and operating in order to meet the new phosphorus limit, but new testing and reporting parameters are in effect now. The required Design Development Report has been submitted to EPD. Plans and specifications are due by December 2016.
- New Wastewater NPDES Permit Pilot Program- Implementation of the pilot program for phosphorus removal is underway and should be completed by the end of August 2016.
- The Nutrient Trading Monitoring Pilot Program is underway. The first phase, funded by a Section 319 Grant should be completed by the end of September 2016.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Motor Control Center Upgrades Phase one- The contractor is scheduled to begin work within the next few weeks.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 316,260,000
- Daily average: 10,201,935
- Wells: 138,400,000
- Big Springs: 0
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 43.8
- Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 38.1%
- Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 33.75%
- Rainfall- 2.24"

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 3.678 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 3, average suspended effluent of 10, and an average COD of 49.

4) Water Distribution

- 415 work orders completed, 7 new water connections, 38 water service leaks repaired, 25 water main leaks repaired, 14 utility locates called in for work orders, 372 utility locates responses.
- Installed 1,790' of 2" black poly line to replace old 2" galvanized line along Nemoe Road in Plainville, and began changing water services to new main line.
- Installed seven pressure monitor systems at locations in Fairmount, Ranger, Nicklesville, Resaca, Hill City, Plainville, and Reeves Station Road at Hwy 136.
- Remove old Peters Street water pump station building and piping system.

5) Waste Water Collection

- 1,800' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 303 utility locates completed, 5,400' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 3 new sewer connections installed, 5 sanitary sewer services repaired.
- 10,000' of sewer line right-of-way cleared and mowed.

6) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 51 permits for an estimated cost of \$1,718,545, collected \$8,068 in permit fees. This included 8 new residential, 6 residential remodeling, 2 commercial remodel/Addition, 4 signs, and 153 total inspections.

7) Recreation Department

- Park Expansion Project – JLI, Inc. continues construction of the Calhoun Park – Phase I. Construction Progress meetings were held on May 4, 11, 18, and 26. Construction is on target to meet completion date.
- Spring Baseball and Softball – The Spring youth baseball and softball season was completed on May 26. A total of 175 games were played in May. There will be six youth all-star teams that will be participating in the GRPA District all-star Tournaments. District tournaments begin on June 18.
- Tennis- The Calhoun Tennis Center served as a satellite facility for the GA USTA Championships. 180 matches were played over May 7-9 with 720 plus participants.
- Stars Program – 2 events for May – bowling and kickball. This program is offered for the Special Needs children in the community on Tuesday evenings.
- Tournaments – The Luke Minten Memorial Tournament was held on May 21.
- Website Usage – total visits 2,875
- **2016 JUNE EVENTS**
June 4- ASA Invitational Tournament; June 25- GRPA District Swim Meet

B. Councilman Barton gave the May report as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 515 cases with 8 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$45,283.50
- Issued 506 warnings
- Investigated 74 highway accidents, 39 private property accidents
- Provided 91 escorts
- 1,659 incident reports
- Responded to 320 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 49,459
- Responded to 4,514 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 382

- Court cases dropped- 97
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 216
- Number of Probation cases- 24
- Failure to appear- 50
- Subpoenas served- 2

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Responded to 155 calls for service for the suppression division, 2 fire incidents for damages.
- Responded to 109 medical service calls.
- Responded to 10 hazardous conditions incidents.
- Responded to 11 false alarms or false calls, 18 good intent.
- Conducted required pressure testing of all fire hose.
- Participated in water days for Calhoun Pre-K, Primary and Elementary Schools.

Training Division

- Department completed 820 hours of training.
- Training consisted of: search and SCBA training, hose line advancement techniques, and GSAR members participated in a land navigation class for Wildland search taught by GSP SWAT.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 114 total reported activities/inspections which included 25 annual inspections, 4 new business inspections, 26 requested inspections, 26 follow-up or re-inspections, and 29 consultations.
- Conducted fire extinguisher classes for CSX Railroad employees at our classroom, at Bostick Industries, and at Gordon Central High School.

5) Downtown Development Authority

- There was landscaping completed in BB&T Park. The Japanese Maple was trimmed and Yellow Lantana plants installed in the large planter.
- The Downtown Development Authority and Gordon County Chamber of Commerce CVB are partnering again for another fun event. On Wednesday, June 22 over 300 Paddle Georgia participants are coming to Downtown Calhoun for a fun evening in the depot parking lot. We are going to have a DJ, a huge pool set-up for tug-of-war competitions, and food vendors.

C. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the May report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Completed 20 shop and 23 street department work orders.
- Placed 15 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Repaired utility cuts and pot holes using approximately 20 tons of asphalt.
- Cut and removed dead trees on King Street.

- Hauled top soil from the Recreation Department to stock pile for later use.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 6 grave sites.
- Sold 4 new grave spaces.

3) Parks Department

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

4) Animal Control

- Housed 33 dogs and 24 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 5
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 14
- Number of cats rescued: 21
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 4
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 40
- Number of bite cases: 4
- Citations issues: 0
- Number of inquiries: 80
- There has now been 17 feral cats vetted in Downtown Calhoun and there are currently 5 dogs available for adoption.

5) Safety Committee

- Safety topic- Understanding Material Safety Data Sheets
- Safety Inspection- Fire Department
- Vehicle Accidents: 4- Police Department
- Workers Compensation: 2- Police Department

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

1) Electric Department

- Work continues on powering and lighting the new Recreation Park. Lights are being installed and should be completed this month.
- J.W. Plaza's lighting and primary wiring is complete.
- Atlanta Oral Surgery on Professional Court in final stages of construction with permanent power installed.

- Construction is underway on 5 new houses at Madison Gardens with temporary service for two houses and permanent power installed at 3 houses.
- Rewiring of the caboose should be finished this week. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that the caboose project is taking an underutilized asset and turning it into an ice cream shop and visitor center. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond thanked Councilwoman Palazzolo for her vision of this project and also thanked the department heads and city workers who have been working on the project.
- The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for May was 37,324,000 kWh. This is about 5% less than last year's record.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 72
- Completed and closed- 83
- Consisting of:
 - Capital construction- 6
 - Street and security lighting-21
 - Distribution Maintenance-12
 - Meter maintenance/replacement- 3
 - New customer meter sets- 10
 - Electric locate tickets processed- 258

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Installed internet for one new customer and disconnected one customer.
- Provided rack space and provisioned a point-to-point circuit for customer backup server hosted at CALNET CO.
- Received Calix equipment and started installing CO equipment. Preparing to replace equipment at 185 customer locations over the next several months.
- Created new server and started configuring for new bandwidth shaping database.
- Continue to work with Paymentus, a billing systems partner, to setup automatic payments for customers to pay bills with credit cards or echecks.
- Opened and closed 18 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Attended ESRI Southeast Users Conference in Charleston.
- Continued mapping storm water system.
- Updated meter data for Water system and participated in work sessions for GIS Water Modeling.
- Held training session for Electric GIS.
- Updated fire pre-plans for buildings for fire department.
- Updated physical addresses, building and billing information.
- Updated zoning maps.
- Updated City and GIS websites.

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.
- The RC met in May and finalized the next Fiscal Year budget. Also, the RC conducted their review of the Executive Director, Lloyd Frazier, who received a very favorable review and is doing a great job as the ED.
- The RC also discussed at length the Murray County inland port and how the change in leadership in Murray County could potential impact that project.

5) Tom B. David Airport

- The Airport is an authority supported by both Gordon County and the City of Calhoun. The airport is the 7th largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia. The six counties that have more aircraft have populations of 150,000 or great, where Gordon County only has 56,000. The airport has a 6,000 foot runway, where most others only have 5,000 foot. Therefore, our airport can handle larger corporate jets for local industry. Also, the airport will received \$7-10 million dollars in Federal funding to build a parallel taxiway that will enable the airport to handle more traffic in and out. There were several people at the noon work session representing the airport and gave a presentation on future expansions of hanger space and long term plans for the airport. Future expansions will allow the airport to grow even more and grow the positive local economic impact. The 107 aircraft currently housed at the airport generated \$175,000 in ad valorem taxes this past year.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

A. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a variance request by Calhoun City Schools at a location of 606 Oothcalooga Street. The variance request is a 15 foot variance from the required 30 foot front setback to renovate and partially reconstruct an existing building for an alternative learning classroom and engineering lab.

- City Clerk Worley stated that all advertising requirements have been met.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that the Zoning Advisory Board met on June 9th and recommended that the variance request be granted.
- Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

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- B. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a variance request to allow a driveway within the existing intersection and red light for Stephenson Engineering, Inc.- Agent for Family Savings Credit Union at a location of 1273 Curtis Parkway.
- City Clerk Worley stated that all advertising requirements have been met.
 - Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that the Zoning Advisory Board met on June 9th and recommended that the variance request be granted.
 - Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
 - Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for the Calhoun Board of Education's annual operating budget and capital plan for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.
- Calhoun City School Superintendent Dr. Michele Taylor reviewed some of the accomplishments of the City school system. Calhoun City Schools are proud to be leaders in academics, arts, and athletics. Many accomplishments were discussed such as being awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award in 2011 and all schools are Distinguished Title I Schools. CHS's graduation rate is 95.27% and is seventh highest percentage out of the 180 school districts in the state. CCS enrollment increased almost 800 students from 2007 to 2015, and only added 5 new teaching positions. The total number of employees during this time period is down 45 staff positions. Calhoun has one of the lowest millage rates at 17.985 in the state. Calhoun also has one of the lowest dollar expenditures per student in the state at \$7,633 and at the same time able to achieve excellent student achievement. Dr. Taylor reviewed the budget proposal which continues with a full school calendar of 180 instruction days and 190 days for teachers in the upcoming school year. Some teacher positions are also being added due to growth in student numbers. State austerity cuts have cost the school system significant State funding, \$18 million since 2003, while shifting that financial burden to the local level. The proposed budget includes \$31,302,455 in expenditures and \$30,880,598 in revenues. Board of Education member Alvin Long thanked the Mayor and City Council for being supportive of the school system. Mayor Palmer and the Council thanked the school board for their work and contribution to the school system. The school board members dedicate a lot of time for no pay and are true servants of the community. Calhoun is a leader in public education.
 - Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. There were no further comments and Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing on the Calhoun City School Board proposed budget.

D. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for the City of Calhoun's annual operating budget and capital plan for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

- City Clerk Worley gave an overview presentation of the City of Calhoun's proposed budget. The proposed budget is balanced and funds the requirements of every department and a budget that insures the service levels to the citizens remains stable. The largest day to day operational expense is personnel and related costs. The City's group health insurance renewal came in at a 0% increase. The line item details in the overall budget are very similar compared to this year's budget. The general fund revenues are budgeted to maintain the current 1.98 millage rate, but we will not receive the actual tax digest numbers until July or August. We have experienced some recovery in the gross digest coming out of the Great Recession, but in an effort to remain competitive in economic development we have increased our Freeport exemption each of the past three years and we are currently at an 80% exemption rate. We have experienced some real growth and expirations of tax abatements to help cancel out the lost revenue of the Freeport exemption, but as of now not enough to break even. To put the digest numbers into prospective 2015 digest is at \$721 million compared to a digest of \$849 million in 2009. This is a \$128 million dollar decrease in the tax digest. The biggest change in revenues from the last budget is the downward trend of sales tax. This is affecting our LOST and SPLOST collections. We have been able to rely on a steady increase of LOST revenues the past few years. However, this year we are currently budgeting \$250,000 less due to the downward trend. There have been many changes in the area of tax exemptions and tax processes on the state level that have had a negative effect on local government sales tax revenues. Overall, general revenues are down in the proposed budget with "Option A" at \$13,207,132. The Mayor and Council have discussed an "Option B" where general revenues would be \$13,716,546. The increased revenue would come from a 1% increase in the Rents and Royalties/Franchise Fee from Calhoun Utilities. This is a lease of assets/royalty fee based on gross sales from Calhoun Utilities for water, sewer, and electric sales. A one percent increase would increase revenues to the General Government by about \$470,000. Some options discussed for the expenditure side of this revenue has been a new position of Court Services and Enforcement Officer. This position would be in charge of serving warrants, citations, overseeing inmates and probation service workers, and assisting in code enforcement issues. Also, the replacement of a fire fighter position that has remained unfilled, 2% cost of living adjustment, City Planner, and increased amount put into the Mayor and Council Contingency fund. In utilities, water and sewer revenues and expenses are balanced, and there is a 3% proposed increase in water and sewer rates. Electric, Telecommunications, and Utility Administration Fund revenues and expenses are all balanced. There are several water and sewer projects included in the budget that will be paid for through SPLOST funding and GEFA Loan proceeds. Also, some capital equipment replacements.

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- Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. There were no further comments and the public hearing for the City of Calhoun's budget was closed.
- Mayor Palmer stated that the proposed budgets will be scheduled for a vote at the next meeting on June 20th.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:


- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a variance request by Jarrett Volzer at a location of 517 Oothcalooga Street, Suite C. The variance request is a 25 foot variance from the required 30 foot front setback to build a covered parking structure. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on July 7th and the public hearing on July 11th.
- B. Councilman Edwards gave the Revolving Loan Advisory Committee report from May 31st concerning a loan application by Kevin and Susan Holland D/B/A: The Rusty Zipper at a location of 112 Court Street. The Committee recommended that the loan request of \$75,000 be approved contingent upon the proper collateral. City Attorney Govignon stated that he would recommend that this item be tabled until the next meeting, so more information could be gathered concerning the pledged collateral for the loan. Councilman Barton made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Councilman Hammond seconded the motion with all voting aye, motion approved.
- C. Councilman Edwards gave the Revolving Loan Advisory Committee report concerning a loan application by Chen Seng Yap D/B/A: Wall Street Grille at a location of 117 South Wall Street. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the \$450,000 loan application request. Councilman Barton seconded the motion with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of C-2 for 0.55 acres at a location of West Belmont Drive by Shelby Peoples D/B/A Specialty Property Investments, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet July 7, 2016. The Public Hearing will be July 11, 2016.
- E. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a zoning change request from R-1 to C-2 for 0.74 acres at a location of West Belmont Drive (parcel # C28-039 and C28-040) by Shelby Peoples D/B/A Specialty Property Investments, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet July 7, 2016. The Public Hearing will be July 11, 2016.

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

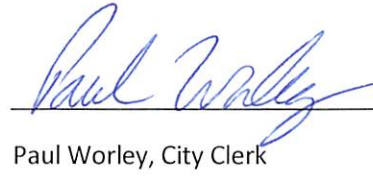
12. Councilman Barton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Palazzolo with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk