

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
September 12, 2011 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

**ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator
Bill Bailey, City Attorney
Larry Vickery, Director of Utilities
Jeff DeFoor, Electric Dept. Superintendent
Brad Carrick, Telecommunications Superintendent
Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director
Gary Moss, Chief of Police
Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief**

- 1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
A. Councilman Crowley gave the invocation.**
- 2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.**
- 3. Mayor Palmer stated he would like to add to the agenda an announcement concerning the COPS grant program under Mayor comments. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Councilman Crowley seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.**
- 4. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2011 City Council Meeting. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
- 5. Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer announced that the City of Calhoun has been awarded with the 2011 COPS Secure Our Schools grant program. This grant is in the amount of \$300,000 and will be used for increased security within the Calhoun City school system. Mayor Palmer stated that this will be very beneficial to the existing schools and the new high school/middle school complex that is under construction. The grant money will be used for security cameras, metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other security related equipment. Mayor Palmer thanked Sharon Jolley with the Calhoun Police Department and Amanda Shultz with the City school system for their work to secure the grant.**

- B. Mayor Palmer reminded the public of an annexation and zoning change request from AG-1 to C-2 for 0.284 acres at a location of 932 North Wall Street for Stanley Simpson. The ZAB will meet on October 6th. The public hearing will be held on October 10th.
- C. Mayor Palmer reminded the public of a zoning change request from R-2 to C-2 for 0.24 acres at a location of 932 North Wall Street for Stanley Simpson. The ZAB will meet on October 6th. The public hearing will be held on October 10th.
- D. Mayor Palmer reminded the public of a request for de-annexation at a location of 1066 Sugar Valley Road which is zoned R-1 and contains 5.43 acres for Martha Juanita Treadaway Muse. The ZAB will meet on October 6th. The public hearing is set for October 10th.
- E. Mayor Palmer reminded the public of a request for de-annexation at a location of 1060 Sugar Valley Road which is zoned R-1B and contains 0.78 acres for Martha Juanita Treadaway Muse. The ZAB will meet on October 6th. The public hearing is set for October 10th.
- F. Mayor Palmer reminded the public of a request for de-annexation at a location of 1287 McDaniel Station Road for Betty Brock. The tract is 0.69 acres and is zoned A-1. The ZAB will meet on October 6th. The public hearing is set for October 10th.
- G. Mayor Palmer announced that the National League of Cities prescription discount card program will be launched on September 15th. The discount cards are designed to help City residents who are without health insurance, a traditional pharmacy benefit plan or have prescriptions not covered by insurance. The cards will be available for City residents at City Hall, the Library, and the Utilities building.

6. Council Comments:

- A. Councilman Edwards gave the August reports as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 785 cases with 9 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$64,983.05
- Issued 817 warnings
- Investigated 50 highway accidents, 26 private property accidents
- Provided 69 escorts
- 1,711 incident reports
- Responded to 332 alarms
- Patrolled 53,376 miles
- Responded to 5,443 calls for service by E-911

2) Fire Department

- Responded to 170 calls for service, 14 fire incidents for damages
- Responded to 0 Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear
- Responded to 110 medical service calls
- Responded to 12 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 14 false alarms, 13 good intent, 0 severe weather & natural disaster

- All Lieutenants and fire fighters attended a flashover safety class at the Atlanta Fire Department.
- Department conducted pre-incident planning at Phoenix Chemical and Henkel Surface Technologies.
- Assisted CFD Inspectors with fire drills at Calhoun High, Elementary, and Primary Schools. Also at Gordon Central High and Ashworth Middle Schools.
- Assisted the Gordon County Fire Department with several brush fires including the Boone Ford Road fire. CFD had 13 personnel and 4 fire engines and 3 command vehicles at various locations between Boone Ford Road and Highway 53 East. CFD called in to back fill on duty positions, 9 personnel. Over time costs were \$741.61. Vehicle costs were \$1,555.00. This does not include on duty salaries.

3) Fire Inspection Department

- 129 total reported activities/inspections which included 4 annual inspections, 2 new business inspections, 35 requested inspections, 6 follow-up or re-inspections, 0 burn-site inspections, 2 plan review, 1 sprinkler permit issued, and 77 consultations
- Inspectors attended LEPC meeting.
- Lt. Duvall worked on new fuel depot security issues with Brad Carrick and Randy Gallman.
- Lt. Dooley attended the city safety meeting and completed the monthly city safety inspection.
- Lt. Duvall and Lt. Fox distributed flyers to 140 houses and apartments on Riverside Drive about the recent brush fires in their area. Inspectors also put public safety info spots on local radio stations about outdoor burning and the dry conditions.

4) Downtown Development Authority and Main Street Program

- The program reports a successful Summer Concert season with more than 2000 people enjoying free concerts downtown at BB&T City Park.
- Some upcoming fall events in downtown will include: Chalk it up event sponsored by Family Connections of Gordon County, United Way's Unity Run on September 27th, and Harvest Fest.
- The Sweet Spot frozen yogurt shop has opened for business in the historic Fox Motor Building.
- The Streetscape III project and the former Bailey Auto building project should be moving forward in the near future.

B. Councilman Barton gave the August reports as follows:

1) Street Department

- Placed 11 new street signs.
- Completed 29 shop and 24 street department work orders.
- Replaced a broken handrail on Sequoyah Terrace.
- Repaired pot holes at various locations around the city using approximately 19 tons of asphalt.

- Replaced 140' of 8' sidewalk and repaved Harlan Street beside the GEM Theater using 40 yards of concrete and 36 tons of Asphalt.
 - Inspected and maintained approximately 98 miles of streets and storm drainage.
 - Removed fallen trees from Lake Drive and College Street.
- 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.
 - Worked 10 grave sites.
- 3) **Rabies Control**
- Housed 21 dogs, and 25 cats
 - Issued 7 warnings
 - Answered 50 customer calls
- 4) **Parks Department**
- The Parks Department grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, books from the library and maintained records at records room.
 - Kept up maintenance on all equipment.
 - Cleaned City Hall at weekly intervals.
 - The building and maintenance crew performed routine maintenance on designed city buildings and all fountains.
 - Painted deck at the Depot.
- 5) **Safety Committee**
- Safety topic- managing diabetes
 - Safety Inspection- electric department
 - Accidents: Vehicle Accident-0
 - Workers Comp: 1- Senior citizen van driver
- 6) **Recreation Department**
- There were 452 visits to the pool for the month of August. The pool was only open on Saturdays and Sundays after school started. Adult swim was offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays during the month of August in the evenings.
 - Facility rentals for August: Ratner Pavilion-6, Playground Pavilion-8, Swimming pool events-9, Softball fields-4, Recreation Center Meeting Room-4.
 - Fall sports registration: Registration for football, cheerleading, soccer and adult softball concluded.
 - Football- 259 participants 5-12 year olds
 - Cheerleading- 60 participants 5-12 year olds
 - Soccer- 297 participants 5-18 year olds
 - Adult softball- 6 coed teams

- Recreation advisory board- The recreation advisory board met on August 10th. Representatives from Calhoun Community Education were present to discuss the coordination of facilities during the construction of the new high school. The recreation department and community education will work together during the construction of the high school to make sure all programs that may be displaced during the construction will have a place to practice and/or play their games. The next recreation advisory meeting will be October 12th at 12:30pm.

C. Councilman Crowley gave the August report as follows:

1) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Pumped a total of 354,870,000 gallons of water for a daily average of 11,447,419 gallons.
- The Brittany Drive Treatment Plant produced 38.7% of the City's potable water for the month, and Big Springs – 0
- Rainfall 0.57"

2) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 4.59 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 4, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 50.

3) Water Distribution

- 3 Water connections, 54 water service leaks repaired, 23 water main leaks repaired, 19 fire hydrant repaired, 2 change out of meters, 74 utility locates called in for work orders, 369 utility located, and 112 misc. calls
- Began installing approximately 3,300 feet of 8" pvc pipe to replace old 8" pipe along Reeves Station Road.
- Completed last section of water line relocation along Hwy 41 as part of Hwy 53/Hwy 41 intersection improvement- 98% complete with project

4) Waste Water Collection

- 1,450' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 316 utility locates completed, 1 lift station repairs completed, 4,600' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 85 manholes opened and inspected
- Continued work on Brittany Drive Well expansion project
- Continued work on Hwy. 53/Hwy.41 sewer and water line relocations
- Assisted Engineering Department with valve labeling project during month.

5) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 38 permits for an estimated cost of \$554,306.00. This included 1 new residential, 0 new commercial, 4 commercial remodeling, 1 residential plumbing, 2 commercial electrical, 4 residential electrical, 7 commercial electrical, and 7 sign permits.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the August report as follows:

1) Airport Authority

- The Airport Authority has taken advantage of low interest rates and refinanced their outstanding debt. The refinance is for a three year period and will provide substantial savings.

2) Chamber of Commerce

- The work force development committee held a ribbon cutting for the new Lowe's Distribution Center in Floyd County on Highway 53 close to the Gordon County line. Over the next several years the distribution center will help create 600 jobs.

3) Electric Department

Long Term Projects under Construction

- The utilities construction crews continue to be supported by electric maintenance personnel as needed to maintain all Water Department and Treatment plants and controls.
- Phase II of the System Loss and the System Protection Programs for 2010-2011 continues with our GIS mapping updates. Our consultant, Power Engineering, has updated the system relay and protection coordination data as it becomes available.
- The new water treatment project is underway with the engineering of controls and instrumentation needed for plant operation.

Projects and Maintenance under construction

- The Electric department continues to communicate with Calhoun Schools Construction Team for the new school. Engineering is underway for outdoor lighting, electric distribution line relocation, underground conversion of existing facilities, and the possibility of Total Electric construction. Phase I Construction has begun with disconnection of utilities at selective facilities.
- The Electric Department continues to work with GDOT Intersection Improvements. The DOT intersection widening of Red Bud and College Streets in near completion. The addition of concrete poles on West Line Street at River Street and Hwy 53 at River Street are complete. The intersection of 53 and 41 has a few more pole transfers to make before new lighting is installed.

Work orders in process or completed

- Street and security lighting-57
- New business and maintenance-31
- After hours trouble and callouts-9
- City electrical maintenance-30
- Meter maintenance/replacement- 5
- New customer meter sets- 3
- Monthly total system locate tickets processed- 244

New record for electric system- 44,480,006 Kwh in August. This is an increase of 20% over 2010, and 62% over 2009. While residential and commercial usages were at the normal seasonal values, large industrial usage was up 35% from 2010 and 151% above 2009.

4) Telecommunications Departments:

- Completed installation of 3 internet customers. Started work on 3 additional internet circuits.
- Repaired 2 fiber cuts.
- Disconnected two internet circuits.
- Installed new version of financial software for user testing.
- Renewed domain name registrations for city email and web site.
- Working with AT&T to cleanup long distance charges.
- Opened 54 and closed 48 work orders.

5) Geographic Information Systems:

- Continue to geo-code billing addresses to physical addresses.
- Started verifying electric and water meter mapping for industrial and downtown commercial meters.
- Continue to assist Engineering department with waste water infiltration project.
- Continue to map fire hydrant and hydrant valve locations.
- Updated city and GIS websites.

6) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- Councilman Hammond gave a report on the monthly Northwest Georgia Regional Commission meeting.
- Councilman Hammond stated that the Commission was continuing to focus on the upcoming Transportation SPLOST vote in November 2012.

Councilman Hammond also stated that being the day after the 10th anniversary of September 11th attacks he would like to recognize and thank the Calhoun Police Department and Calhoun Fire Department for the work that they do. Councilman Hammond praised all first responders for the work they do to keep the public safe.

7. Public Hearings and Comments: None

8. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a taxicab license request for Lilian Barrera De Valladares, owner, D/B/A: Taxi Los Buenos Amigos Inc. at a location of 711 South Wall Street Suite #5. The public hearing will be on September 26th.

9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer read a request for a beer pouring license and wine pouring license by J. Haley Stephens with Friends of Calhoun's GEM Theatre for a location of 114 N. Wall Street. City attorney Bill Bailey addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the issue stating that the City was not permitted to approve this license request. Attorney Bailey stated that the State of Georgia did have a provision for non-profit organizations to obtain an alcohol permit for a period not to exceed three days and no more than six permits per year. Attorney Bailey stated that Mr. Stephens would be referred to the Commission of Revenue to apply for the temporary license.
- B. Mayor Palmer read a request to accept the dedication of Madison Drive, Koufax Drive, and Gilmore Circle into the City's street system. These roads are located behind the Georgia Northwestern Technical College. Administrator Peterson stated that the Public Works Director Kevin McEntire had inspected the streets and required a few corrections to the roads. The corrections were made to bring the streets up to code. Councilman Barton made a motion to accept Madison Drive, Koufax Drive, and Gilmore Circle into the City's street system. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer read an Easement, Indemnification, and Hold Harmless Agreement between the City of Calhoun and Lineage PCR, Inc. at a location of 200 Fair Street. Attorney Bailey explained that this was a drainage easement request to accommodate the construction of the new Calhoun High/Middle School complex. The engineers have formulated a drainage plan for water runoff on the South side of the school complex. This drainage plan will benefit the school property as well as the property owned by Lineage PCR. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the easement agreement between the City of Calhoun and Lineage PCR, Inc. at 200 Fair Street. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- D. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a variance request by Sim Bertina, LLC at a location of 160 Curtis Parkway. Mayor Palmer stated that the Fire Department had inspected the site and determined that the fire hydrant proximities to the North and South were sufficient. Based on the Fire Department's recommendation the variance request was not necessary.
- E. Mayor Palmer read a request by Echota Baptist Church to block the road beginning at the mailbox by the front steps of the church to the stop sign behind the church at Short North Wall Street on Saturday October 22nd from 12:00pm to 3:00pm for their Fall Festival. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the road closure. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- F. Mayor Palmer announced the City of Calhoun candidates for the November 8th, 2011 general municipal election.
 - Mayor- James F. (Jimmy) Palmer (incumbent)
 - Calhoun City Council Post 1- George R. Crowley (incumbent)
 - Calhoun City Council Post 2- Al Edwards (incumbent), Lorene Potts
 - Calhoun City School Board Post 4- Eddie Reeves (incumbent), Trey Pierson
 - Calhoun City School Board Post 5- Tony Swink (incumbent), Debra MoyerMayor Palmer thanked the public for the opportunity to serve as Mayor for another four years.

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

A. Eddie Peterson, City Administrator

- None

B. Larry Vickery, Director of Utilities

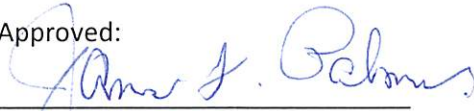
- Mr. Vickery stated that Calhoun Utilities has sold record amounts of electricity over the last few months due to a large increase in industrial use.
- Mr. Vickery also wanted to make the public aware that even though utility bills were rising the City's rates were comparatively low. Mr. Vickery stated that according to the Georgia Public Service Commission the City's rates were the 14th lowest out of 95 providers in Georgia. Mr. Vickery also stated that Calhoun Utilities numbers were on par with those of Dalton Utilities. Dalton is listed by Jacksonville Electric Authority's July 2011 quarterly electric rate study as having the fifth lowest electric rate out of 60 companies studied nationwide. That would make Calhoun Utilities between 4th and 6th lowest.
- Mr. Vickery stated that Water and Sewer Director Jerry Crawford researched where the City ranks with water rates. According to the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority the City's water rates ranked within the bottom third for rates within Georgia.

C. Bill Bailey, City Attorney

- Attorney Bailey announced that an agreement had been reached concerning the McDaniel property in Saddlebrook Subdivision on September 7th. The McDaniels have agreed to have the debris removed, mow the grass, remove the fence from the front of the property, screen the front of the basement wall, and screen the backside of the property. Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel stated in a letter their regrets for the length of time this process has taken due to their dispute with their insurance company. Mr. Bailey stated that the City accepted the agreement, but reserves the right to continue with the nuisance abatement if necessary.

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

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Eddie Peterson, City Administrator