

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; George Govignon, City Attorney; Paul Worley, City Clerk; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Todd Holbert, Battalion Chief; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Linda Brookshire, Human Resource Director; Michelle Taylor, Calhoun City Schools Superintendent; Don Hood, Calhoun City Schools Finance Director; Louis Byars, Calhoun City Schools Assistant Finance Director

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. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the agenda and Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2014 City Council meeting. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer stated that at the noon work session, Mr. Marvin Gardner presented the Mayor and Council with lapel pins showing the Military Order Purple Heart appreciation for designating the City of Calhoun as a Purple Heart City. Mr. Gardner stated that the State of Georgia was second to last in the United States for the number of Purple Heart Cities and now Georgia has the fourth highest number. Mayor Palmer also stated that the City has purchased Purple Heart City signs to place on some of Calhoun's existing City Limits signs.
6. **Council Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the August report as follows:
 - 1) **Electric Department**
 - o Construction continues on the new Race Trac and Dunkin Donuts.

- Installed Capacitors on Circuit # N-6422. This is part of our system reliability improvements, loss reduction and voltage stabilization program.
- Continued with Bad Pole Replacement program.
- Electric maintenance continues with the replacement of motor controls at Raw Water intake.
- Exit 312 Soil test for foundation drawings were completed. This is the next step for completing the DOT requirements and project approval.
- The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for August was 43,497,252 kWh.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 118
- Completed and closed- 109
- Consisting of:
 - Capital construction- 21
 - Street and security lighting-31
 - Distribution Maintenance-41
 - Meter maintenance/replacement- 13
 - New customer meter sets- 32

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Installed three new Internet connections and disconnected one service.
- Completed all fiber work for Union Grove / I-75 interchange.
- Completed fiber relocation for Red Bud Road / I-75 interchange construction. Thanks to the Electric Department for their assistance.
- Installed new phones at Calhoun Middle School.
- Changed phone system call routing to provide dial by name directory assistance for callers that dial un-provisioned phone numbers.
- Started installing new mobility solution for school system.
- Built a new mail relay server to replace crashed appliance server.
- Opened and closed 17 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Updated building footprints on map.
- Collected GPS coordinates for new Electric Department assets and updated maps.
- Created maps for proposed billing cycle changes.
- Created GIS mapping tool for Customer Service Department to collect phone numbers of customers scheduled for service outages. The phone numbers are used to automatically call the customers and play a recording notifying them of the outage.
- Updated online GIS viewer to latest version.
- Updated water meter mapping and performed field verifications.
- Created new updated city grid map for Police Department
- Setup new IPADs with mobile GIS app and trained users.
- Updated zoning map.
- Updated pre-fire plans for Fire Department.
- Updated fiber mapping for Telecom Department.

- Updated addresses from changes in billing account data.
- Updated City and GIS websites.

4) Downtown Development Authority

- The DDA will be hosting Harvest Fest this year the last Saturday in October as in years past. October 25th from 10 until 4 in Downtown Calhoun. Vendor applications may be obtained at the Calhoun Depot, or call 706.602.5570.
- In August the DDA/MSP/HPC director attended the GA Downtown Association Conference in Decatur where the City of Calhoun was recognized for its efforts in Design for the corner park green space at the intersection of Hicks and Wall Streets. Roland also attended an HPC meeting; a ribbon cutting for the reopening of Bidy Boutique; the Chamber of Commerce State-of-the-Industry Breakfast; and Business After Hours sponsored by downtown business, United Hospice. The DDA office has been involved with some of the landscaping efforts at the library and the plaza renovations at City Hall.

B. Councilman Barton gave the August report as follows:

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

- The Brittany Drive Expansion Project- The project is approximately 93% complete.
- Clarifier Mechanism Replacement Project- The new mechanisms and troughs are on site. Installation has begun and is approximately 65% complete.
- I-75 & Red Bud Road utility relocate- Construction began on November 18th and the utility relocate project is projected to be completed within the next three weeks.
- King Street and Pine Street replacement sewers. The project is complete and paving should be completed in a few weeks.
- Flocculation and sedimentation control project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant: Work began on August 13th on the large basin.
- Coosawattee Intake Screen Replacement- One screen was installed on August 4th and is awaiting completion of the electrical work.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 336,200,000
- Daily average: 10,845,161
- Wells: 148,590,000
- Big Springs: 0
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 44.2
- Rainfall- 3.69"

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 4.189 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 10, and an average COD of 63.

4) Water Distribution

- 12 Water connections, 41 water service leaks repaired, 24 water main leaks repaired, 37 water meters changed out, 1 new fire hydrant, 6 water services changed from old 2" galv. line to larger line, 5 yards or roadway edges repaired due to previous work, 54 utility locates called in for work orders, 424 utility locates responded to, and 117 misc. calls
- 240' of 8" ductile iron pipe water line installed
- 1,660' of 6" ductile iron pipe water line installed
- 1,770' of 2" black poly pipe water line installed
- Completed installing 700' of 6" ductile iron pipe and 700' of 2" black poly pipe along Main Street of Harris Beamer Road to replace and upgrade old 2" galv. line.
- Completed installing 1,070' of new 2" black poly line along Alton Drive to replace old 2" galv. line and began changing services to new main.
- Completed installing 240' of 8" ductile iron pipe to serve new building at Enterprise Drive.
- Completed installing 500' of 6" ductile iron pipe to move water line off of RaceTrac property and on to Hwy 53 right-of-way.
- Completed installing 460' of 6" ductile iron and 80' of black poly pipe to replace old 2" galv. line under Hwy 136 and along Fite Bend Road.

5) Waste Water Collection

- 1,450' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 327 utility locates completed, 2 lift station repairs completed, 5,200' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 86 manholes opened and inspected, 2 new sewer connections installed, 6 sanitary sewer services repaired
- Completed installing new Timber Ridge Lift Station. Replacement for an old 1994 lift station.

6) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 41 permits for an estimated cost of \$770,655, collected \$9,829 in permit fees. This included 3 new residential, 7 residential remodeling, 2 commercial remodeling, 1 new industrial, 6 residential plumbing, 6 new residential and 2 commercial HVAC, 2 residential electrical, 1 commercial electric, 3 sign, 2 soil & erosion, 2 grading permits, and 117 total inspections.

7) Recreation Department

- **SWIM** – A total of 420 visits were made to the swimming pool during the month. The pool was closed for the season to general public on August 14. Adult Swim was offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays during the month of August. Pool Parties were scheduled on Friday, Saturday and Sundays during the month. Blue Barracudas will continue evening practices as weather permits through September.
- **FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION** – Registration for Football, Cheerleading, Soccer and Adult Softball and Soccer concluded in August. Registration numbers:

Football – 340 participants – 5-12 year olds – Registration increased by 12 participants

Cheerleading – 82 participants – 5-12 year olds – Registration increased by 12 participants

Recreation Soccer – 363 participants– 4-11 year olds – Registration increased by 74 participants

Competitive Soccer Leagues – 12 – 18 year olds – 70 participants – 5 teams
Adult Softball – 5 Coed Teams.

This Fall we have 2 new programs being offered:

1 – Star Sport League – We will have sports leagues for the Special needs children in our community. Soccer will be the first sport offered with registration being accepted now and the league beginning October 4

2 – Adult Soccer League - There are 4 teams that will be participating in the inaugural Adult Soccer League.

Youth Football and Soccer Opening Day – Saturday, September 13

- **Recreation Advisory Board** – The Recreation Advisory Board met on August 13. Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc. (BWSC) representatives were present to discuss the master plan for the development of the 58 acres of park property. BWSC will be developing the park master plan. A public input meeting for the park property will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 6:00pm at the Recreation Center. This will be the first of 2 public input meetings held. The Recreation Advisory board will meet again on Wednesday, October 15 at 12:30pm.
- **Website Usage** – total visits 1,030

C. Councilman Crowley gave the August report as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 680 cases with 6 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$71,607.00
- Issued 912 warnings
- Investigated 58 highway accidents, 38 private property accidents
- Provided 74 escorts
- 1,601 incident reports
- Responded to 252 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 54,572
- Responded to 5,040 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 536
- Court cases dropped- 102
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 298
- Number of Probation cases- 57
- Probation Payments- \$21,120
- Probation Revocations- 10
- Failure to appear- 44

- Prisoner transports- 27

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Responded to 126 calls for service for the suppression division, 2 fire incidents for damages. (\$5,265 in estimated fire damage)
- Responded to 85 medical service calls
- Responded to 5 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 8 false alarms or false calls, 13 good intent
- Conducted fire drills at Calhoun Elementary, Primary, Middle, and High Schools, also at Gordon Central High School and Ashworth Middle School.

Training Division

- Department completed 693 hours of training.
- Hosted and co-instructed a confined space rescue class attended by CFD and surrounding agencies.
- Firefighter water survival in turnout gear.
- Vent Enter Isolate Search classes with live fire.
- Trained with Cobb County Fire Department personnel at our training center.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 126 total reported activities/inspections which included 29 annual inspections, 1 new business inspections, 32 requested inspections, 31 follow-up or re-inspections, and 25 consultations
- Inspectors attended Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting and coordinated all fire drills.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the August report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Completed 27 shop and 14 street department work orders.
- Placed 8 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Repaired utility cuts and pot holes around town using 56 tons of asphalt.
- Cleaned out a 150' section of ditch line on Pine Hill Drive.
- Replaced 42 feet of sidewalk and installed handicap ramps on River Street and Wall Street.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites.
- Sold 18 new grave spaces.
- Worked 12 grave sites.

3) Animal Control

- Housed 28 dogs and 5 cats

- Number of dogs adopted: 2
- Number of cats adopted: 1
- Number of dogs rescued: 6
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 6
- Number of dogs euthanized: 4
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 11
- Number of bite cases: 1
- Citations issues: 2
- Number of inquiries: 92

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.
- Mowed and weedeated approximately 19 miles of sidewalk, 29 islands, and 42 other designated places in the City.
- The building and maintenance crew performed routine maintenance on designed city buildings and all fountains.
- Installed irrigation system at the Library and at City Hall.
- Planted flowers, trees, and laid sod at City Hall.

5) Safety Committee

- Safety topic- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- Safety Inspection- Sewer Plant
- Vehicle Accidents: 2- Police Department
- Workers Compensation: 0

6) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- Councilman Hammond discussed the many benefits of the City's membership in the NWGRC and also welcomed and congratulated Mr. Dan McBee who was recently appointed to the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission. Programs discussed included various programs that benefit the citizens such as meals on wheels, food study programs, local food service program, neighborhood stabilization, economic development, historic preservation, water resource studies, grant funding for increasing high speed fiber infrastructure, adult and youth workforce training, area on aging, and comprehensive community planning.

7. Public Hearings and Comments: None

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer stated that the City of Calhoun and Calhoun City Schools needed to set the millage rate for 2014. The City of Calhoun current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years, and the announcement of the meeting date for the millage rate setting was advertised in the Calhoun Times on August 20th and August 23rd. The City of Calhoun is proposing to keep the millage rate at 1.98, which will result in a net tax decrease of \$20,098. This is the third year in a row the City has maintained the same millage rate. Calhoun City Schools are proposing a millage rate of 17.985, which is up from the 2013 rate of 17.813. The slight increase in millage rate will still be a net tax decrease of \$83,292. The 2014 gross tax digest increased by \$18,637,568. However, the exemptions, primarily due to an increase in Freeport inventory exemptions, increased by \$28,787,977. The result is a net tax digest decrease of \$10,150,409. Administrator Peterson stated that the City of Calhoun and Calhoun City Schools have one of the lowest millage rates in the State of Georgia. Also, based on the level of taxes paid compared to level of services provided and quality of education provided are some of the best in the state. Overall, it demonstrates good stewardship. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the City of Calhoun and Calhoun Board of Education proposed property tax millage rates. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- B. Mayor Palmer read a request by the Calhoun Police Department to withdraw \$500.00 from the asset seizure account and donate the proceeds to the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce's Drugs Don't Work program. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the donation of funds to the Drugs Don't Work program. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- C. Mayor Palmer read a recommendation to award a contract to C & S Construction utilizing the One Year Unit Price Contract for the Installation of Water and Sewer Lines. GEFA/SRF Project No. 13-003- Two Inch Galvanized Line Replacement Project. General Manager Vickery explained the project consists of replacing and in some cases upgrading existing two inch galvanized water mains within the water distribution system that are aging and have a high failure rate. Estimated project cost is \$1,440,000. Councilman Edwards made a motion to award the contract to C & S Construction. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

- A. City Administrator Peterson

B. General Manager Vickery

- Mr. Vickery reported on new software being used by Calhoun Utilities. The new telephone software is issuing phone notifications for outages, late payment, cut-off notice, and water leaks. There has been very positive customer feedback concerning the new alert system.

C. City Attorney Govignon

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

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk