

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2022 - 7:00 PM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

**MINUTES**

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor  
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilman  
Al Edwards, Councilman  
Ed Moyer, Councilman  
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilwoman

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Assistant Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Tony Pyle, Police Chief; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; and Neal Russell, Code Enforcement Officer.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**

**Welcome**

Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Invocation**

Councilman Edwards gave the invocation.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

3. **Swearing in of Elected Officials**

The following officials were sworn in by Mayor Palmer:

- |                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Ed Moyer         | Calhoun City Council Post 3       |
| B. Ray Denmon       | Calhoun City Council Post 4       |
| C. Andy Baxter      | Calhoun Board of Education Post 1 |
| D. Rhoda Washington | Calhoun Board of Education Post 2 |
| E. Stephen King     | Calhoun Board of Education Post 3 |

4. **Amendment or Approval of Proposed Agenda**

Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the January 10, 2022 agenda as presented. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of December 27, 2021. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

6. **Mayor's Comments**

A. Mayor Palmer reminded those present of the upcoming GMA Cities United Summit on January 21-24, 2022 in Atlanta.

B. Mayor Palmer made the 2022 appointments of City Council members for reporting purposes for various departments of the City according to Calhoun Code of Ordinances Section 2-401 as follows:

- 1) Councilman Denmon – Public Works, Recreation, DDA, Mainstreet Program, and Historic Preservation.
- 2) Councilman Edwards – Police, Municipal Court, Fire, Safety, and Zoning Advisory Board.
- 3) Councilman Moyer – Electric, Telecommunications, Building Inspections, Revolving Loan, and Northwest Georgia Regional Commission.
- 4) Councilwoman Palazzolo – Water and Sewer Operations, Water and Sewer Construction, and Library.

7. **Council Comments**

A. Councilman Edwards made a motion to dispense with the reading of the December, 2021 council reports, noting that the reports were available at City Hall for those wishing to review them. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Councilwoman Palazzolo submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

**Water Treatment Plant**

- Total gallons withdrawn: 316,760,000
- Daily average: 10,218,064
- Wells: 127,050,000
- Big Springs: 0
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 38.8%
  - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 34.73%
  - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 38.24%
  - Rainfall for November – 5.23"

**Waste Water Treatment Plant**

- Treated a daily average of 5.319 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 4, average suspended effluent of 18, and an average COD of 77.

**Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection**

- 171 work orders completed, 32 new water connections, 10 water service leaks repaired, 14 water main leaks repaired, 0 water services changed to new main lines, 61 meter changes, 31 utility locates called in for work orders, 495 utility locates responses.
- 3,450 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 395 utility locates completed, 3,250 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 32 new sewer connections installed, 2 sanitary sewer services repaired.

## 2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

### **Projects Under Construction**

- 319 Grant Lynn Creek Project- Agricultural project scheduled for spring 2022.
- Fox Subdivision 2" galvanized water line replacement project 286. Materials are on site ready for contractor to begin.
- Eastside sewer replacement project- Project is under construction. Crews are continuing to pipe burst existing mains and laterals and re-connecting customers to the new lines as they progress. Additional crews are working on clean up, road patching, and manhole rehab.
- Sewer Extension Hwy 41 South- Project approximately 60% complete

### **Projects in Design & Development**

- South Interceptor Flow Study

## 3) **Library**

- There are 10,087 library card holders, 1,750 library visitors, and 3,268 total circulation.
- There were 102 story time attendance, 3 adult program attendance, 60 new users, 678 e-books, 709 audio books, 314 computer logins, and 8,069 Facebook visits.

## C. Councilman Edwards submitted December reports as follows:

### 1) **Police Department**

- Made 193 cases with 5 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$21,235
- Issued 221 warnings
- Investigated 57 highway accidents, 32 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 10
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 0
- Alarm responses - 189
- Miles patrolled: 43,598

### 2) **Municipal Court**

- Total Court cases- 207
- Court cases dropped- 10
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 7

- Number of Probation cases- 11
- Failure to appear- 0
- Subpoenas served- 2

3) Fire Department

### December 2021 Activities Report

Fire Suppression Division	
<b>183 Total reported calls for service for the Suppression Division</b>	
Number of Calls	Dispatched Calls
0	Fire, Other
3	Structure Fire
0	Mobile Property (Vehicle) Fire
1	Natural Vegetation Fire
0	Outside Rubbish Fire
<b>4</b>	<b>Total Fire Calls</b>
10	Rescue Emergency Medical call (Other)
33	Medical Assist
68	Emergency Medical Services Incident
0	Lock-In
0	Search for Lost Person
0	Water or ice related rescue
0	Extrication
1	Rescue or EMS Standby
<b>112</b>	<b>Total Medical Calls</b>
0	Flammable Gas or Liquid Condition / other
2	Combustible / Flammable Liquids Spills and Leaks
1	Chemical Release, Reaction or Toxic Condition
1	Electrical Wiring / Equipment problems
<b>4</b>	<b>Total Hazardous Conditions Incidents (NO FIRE: Leaks, Spills, Electrical Hazards; All Other Hazardous Conditions without injuries)</b>
0	Potential Accident
6	Person In Distress
1	Water Problem
0	Service Call-Other (Smoke/Odor Problem)
0	Public Service Assistance
<b>7</b>	<b>Total Service Calls (Water Leak; Assist Other Agencies with Non-Emergency Calls)</b>
1	Service Call-Other (Smoke/Odor Problem)
3	Public Service Assistance

0	Good Intent Call
<b>4</b>	<b>Total Good Intent Calls (Investigation of Unknown Problem; Smoke / Odor Check)</b>
30	Dispatched and Canceled En-Route
4	Wrong location / No Emergency Found
0	Controlled Burning
1	Steam or gas mistaken for smoke
1	Haz Mat Release investigation w/ no Haz Mat found
5	False Alarm and False Call Other
1	Bomb Scare (Nothing Found)
0	Malicious Mischievous false alarm
4	System or Detector Malfunction
5	Unintentional System / Detector Operation (No Fire)
<b>51</b>	<b>Total False Alarms or False Calls</b>
0	Severe Weather & Natural Disaster
<b>0</b>	<b>Total Severe Weather &amp; Natural Disaster Calls</b>
1	Special Incident Type (Citizen Complaint; Other)
<b>1</b>	<b>Total Special Incident Type</b>
<b>Additional Fire Department Activities:</b>	
	Completed routine Dept. Maintenance and station duties.
	Continued Participating in meetings on COVID-19 response protocols and issues with local agencies (by video conference).
	Participated in and worked Christmas Parade
<b>Training Division</b>	
<b>413</b>	<b>Total Man Hours of training during the month</b>
<b>Training consisted of:</b>	
Training consisted of Water Supply, Driver Training, Hoseline Management, Pump Operations and Hazardous Materials.	
<b>Fire Inspections - Public Safety Education - Code Enforcement Division</b>	
<b>64</b>	<b>Total Reported Activities / Inspections completed during the month</b>
<b><u>Inspections / Enforcement Activities</u></b>	
9	Annual Inspection
2	New Business Inspections

14	Requested Inspections
8	Follow Up, Re-Inspections
0	Burn Site Inspections
5	Plan Reviews
1	Pre-Construction Meeting
0	Sprinkler Permits Issued
0	Fuel Tank Permit (Install, Removal or Service)
25	Consultations
0	Fire Drills
0	Illegal Burning Citations
0	Zoning / Annexation Meetings
64	Total

4) **Safety Committee**

- The safety topic of discussion this month was Winter Driving. No safety inspections were performed in December.
  - Vehicle accidents: 1
  - Workers compensation: 0

D. Councilman Denmon submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

**Street Department**

- Completed 22 shop and 15 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 2 new street signs.
- Worked the annual Christmas parade of lights.
- Began the annual leaf clean up all over town.

**Cemetery Department**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites.
- Sold 15 new grave spaces.

**Parks Department**

- The grounds crew picked up litter, mowed, trimmed bushes, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
- The maintenance crew maintained designated buildings downtown.
- Installed weather stripping on the front door at city hall.

**Animal Control**

- Housed 10 dogs and 1 cat
- Number of dogs adopted: 2
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 0
- Number of cats rescued: 1
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 2

- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 1
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 11
- Number of bite cases: 2
- Citations issues: 2

## 2) Recreation Department

### 1. **YOUTH SPORTS:**

**Soccer** – Six teams advanced to the GRPA State Soccer tournaments December 3-4. The 7-8 Boys, 9-10 Boys and 11-12 Boys travelled to Thomasville. The 7-8 Girls, 9-10 Girls, and 11-12 Girls travelled to Wayne County. The 9-10 Girls team placed state runner-up.

**Youth Basketball** – Youth Basketball games began December 6. Forty-three games were played December 6 – December 21. Our partnership with Calhoun City Schools allows us to be able to use the primary, elementary, and middle school gyms for practices and games. All gym space is maxed out for our basketball program.

### 2. **OTHER PROGRAMS:**

**Disc Golf Prodigy Par 2:** This event was rescheduled from December 11 due to inclement weather. The tournament is January 8 with 40 participants.

**Stars Christmas Party** – We started back with Stars programs on December 13 with a Christmas party. We had 3 participants that made cookies, reindeer food and played games.

**SANTA’S CALLING** - December 14 and 16 were offered for Santa’s calling. There were 60 parents that signed their children up to receive a call from Santa Claus and his elves.

**TENNIS** – Calhoun High and Middles schools begin practice January 8.  
**Christmas Tournament** – December 11 and 12 – 45 participants  
 Daily after 6:00pm – 90% of courts in use.  
**Combo League** – 30 plus participants  
**Tuesday/Thursday Morning Drills** – 20 participants

### 3. **FACILITY USAGE:**

The following facilities were reserved throughout the month of December for Special Events:

Black/Gold Playground Pavilion – 1 event

Ratner Pavilion – 1 event

Billy Bearden Recreation Center

Meeting Room – 2 events    Community Room – 3 events

**4. WEBSITE USAGE:**

CalhounRec.com	Facebook Page
Sessions – 1,018	Reached – 3,804
Users – 2,279	Engagements - 423
Page Views – 1,554	Posts - 9
Posts -24	

**5. PARKS MAINTENANCE:**

- 1- Touch up paint in Recreation Center, softball complex and Tennis Center
- 2- Mulched leaves throughout park
- 3- Removed leaves from walking trails
- 4- Winterized softball complex and Ratner pavilion
- 5- Winterized soccer complex
- 6- Winterize Pool house
- 7- Stored and cleaned football equipment
- 8- General park maintenance

**2022 UPCOMING EVENTS**

Calhoun – Gordon County United Way – Warm-up All-star Basketball Tournament – Feb. 10-12 2022

GRPA District Basketball -9-10 Boys – February 19-24, 2022 – CMS Gym  
Arbor Day – Billy Bearden Recreation Center – Gym – February 18-19, 2022

Miracle Run – benefiting United Way Agencies Winners Club and Camp  
New Adventure United Way – March 17

7th Annual Calhoun Recreation Youth Classic Tournament – March 26-  
December 1, 2022

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

The DDA held their regularly scheduled meeting. The DDA, Northwest Georgia Regional Fair and CVB co-hosted the annual Christmas parade. The DDA hosted the annual Moonlight Madness. There was one new business opening. The Healing Touch Massage Studio located at 108 Oothcalooga Street. The 10<sup>th</sup> annual BBQ, Boogie & Blues has been scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The DDA is encouraging everyone to shop local.

E. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- Construction continues on the new Calhoun Early Learning Academy at 380 Barrett Road.
- The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.
- Construction continues on the new Take 5 Oil Change location at 604 Hwy 53 East.
- Electrical Engineering has begun for the Exchange Apartments on Curtis Parkway.

- Work continues for service upgrades on Five Below and Ross at Indian Hills Shopping Center and Mistras Group Inc. on Beamer Road.

**WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED FOR DECEMBER:**

• NEWLY CREATED	38
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	22
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	18
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	6
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	14
• NEW METER SETS	9
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	1
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED	268

The City of Calhoun’s Electrical load for December 2021 is estimated to be about 29 million kilowatt hours (kWh’s). This is about the same as December of 2020. Actual numbers will be released around January 18<sup>th</sup>.

In November the Educational Solar Array, a partnership between Calhoun Utilities, Calhoun City Schools and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), produced 3,660 kWh’s of electricity and provided a carbon offset of 5,570 pounds or the equivalent carbon sequestration of 65 trees.

2) **Telecommunications**

- Finished construction on two new internet customers and a point-to-point service.
- Repaired drop fiber cut.
- Started engineering for fiber optic cable connection to new Police Department.
- Started trial of fourth Wi-Fi vendor.
- Upgraded server platform software to protect against latest malware threat.
- Added 400 megabits of bandwidth to existing customer service.
- Finished configuring five laptops and received 10 new computers for Police Department.
- Installed two new Wi-Fi routers
- Opened 10 and closed 11 work orders.

**Geographic Information Systems**

- Updated zoning map and parcel data.
- Updated water system and water meter data and mapping.
- Generated Electric usage reports.
- Updated Fiber maps.
- Updated Fire pre-plan for buildings.
- Updated Physical addressing, building and billing information.
- Updated City and GIS web sites.

- City employee GIS login statistics
  - Total logins – 1000
  - Top three layers accessed
    - Water – 311
    - Metering – 200
    - Electric – 137

3) **Building Inspections**

- Issued 122 permits for an estimated cost of \$5,041,113, collected \$33,633 in permit fees. This included 34 new residential, 2 residential remodel, 0 new commercial, 1 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 0 industrial remodel, 14 residential plumbing, 7 residential electrical, 1 commercial plumbing, 14 residential HVAC, 2 commercial HVAC, 6 commercial electrical, and 0 industrial electrical. 366 total inspections.

8. **Public Hearing and Comments**

- A. Announce at this time, public hearings will be held. The public will have the opportunity to make pro and con comments with a ten minute maximum time limit for each side of the matter, with each person giving their name and address. An inquiry should be made to determine if any elected official has filed a disclosure statement regarding ownership or special interest in any of the agenda items. Zoning Land Use Maps on display in Council Chambers for Zoning Advisory Board and Council hearings.
- B. **WITHDRAWN:** Annexation and zoning request from County-Agricultural to PRD (Planned Residential Development) for 29.73 acres, at a location of 763 Highway 53 (parcel 034-007D) by Adam Baker.
  - 1) Mayor Palmer stated that the annexation and zoning request had been withdrawn by the applicant.
- C. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from County –Agricultural to IND-G, for 28.50 acres at a location of Belwood Road (parcel 058-032) by Lincoln Property Company. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from County –Agricultural to IND-G, for 28.65 acres at a location of Belwood Road (parcel 058-033) by Lincoln Property Company. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from County C-5 to IND-G, for 5.57+ acres at a location of Belwood Road (parcel 058-030) by Lincoln Property Company. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mayor Palmer advised those present that Items C, D, and E would be presented together as they were all for the same project.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
  - City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
  - Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report of the Zoning Advisory Board stating that all were in favor of the annexation and zoning request. Councilwoman Palazzolo stated for the record that she would be abstaining from the vote on these three items due to a possible conflict of interest.

- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments. Terry Brumlow of 1287 Curtis Parkway, attorney for the applicant, addressed board members stating that he was proud to represent this company and the professionalism shown throughout this process. This is a large company with over 8,500 employees worldwide. Their proposal is to construct a 490,000 square foot building. There is no current tenant as this is a speculative building.
- Mr. Denton Shamburger of 3405 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia, 30305 and runs the industrial development side of the company, located in Atlanta. He stated that the company is a 54 year old company out of Dallas, Texas and the Atlanta office has been open for 35 years. The property is approximately 64 acres north of Love's Travel Stop. Tremendous attention is paid to detail, noting that his company calls them employment centers, not warehouses. Car traffic and truck traffic are kept separate. The buildings are tilt-up concrete, not metal. Examples of the buildings were reviewed and it was noted that this would be the eleventh building in the last three to four years. The company is very excited about the interchange on 75. The plan will be for traffic coming and going to use the Union Grove interchange. The applicant is working with Gordon County on road improvements that would be required.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for those present wishing to comment.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the annexation request for the 28.50 acres, being parcel 058-032. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilman Denmon gave a second with Councilwoman Palazzolo abstaining, and Councilman Denmon and Councilman Moyer voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request of Ind-G for the property. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the zoning request. Councilman Moyer gave a second with Councilwoman Palazzolo abstaining, and Councilman Denmon, Councilman Moyer and Councilman Edwards voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning annexation request for the 28.65 acres being parcel 058-033. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the annexation. Councilman Denmon gave a second with Councilwoman Palazzolo abstaining, and Councilman Denmon, Councilman Edwards and Councilman Moyer voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request of Ind-G for the property. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the zoning request. Councilman Moyer gave a second with Councilwoman Palazzolo abstaining, and Councilman Denmon, Councilman Moyer and Councilman Edwards voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the annexation request for the 5.57 acres being parcel 058-030. Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilman Edwards gave a second with Councilwoman Palazzolo abstaining, and Councilman Edwards, Councilman Denmon, and Councilman Moyer voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request of Ind-G for the property. Councilman Moyer made a motion to approve the zoning for the property. Councilman Denmon gave a second with Councilwoman Palazzolo

abstaining, and Councilman Moyer, Councilman Denmon, and Councilman Edwards voting aye. Motion approved.

- F. Public hearing of a zoning change request from C-2 to R-2 for 20 acres, at a location between former Liberty service station and Ramada Inn on Red Bud Road (parcel C64-002), by James "Mike" Meadows. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
  - City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
  - Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that all members were in favor of the zoning request. Councilwoman Palazzolo stated for the record that she would be abstaining from the vote on this item due to a possible conflict of interest.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for those present wishing to comment.
  - There being no other comments, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the zoning change request of R-2.
  - Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the zoning change request. Councilman Denmon gave a second with Councilwoman Palazzolo abstaining, and Councilman Denmon, Councilman Edwards, and Councilman Moyer voting aye. Motion approved.
- G. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from County-R-3, to R-2 for 1.20 acres, at a location of Lindsey Lane SE (parcel 056B-110) by Quang Nguyen. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
  - City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
  - Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that all members were in favor of the annexation and zoning request.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for those present wishing to comment.
  - Tony Burke of 860 Lovers lane Road stated that he wasn't opposed to the development itself however; he felt that the flooding in the area needed to be resolved before developing continued. He stated he felt the flooding was caused by the berm of a creek on the property. Mr. Burke was referred to Utilities Administrator Vickery and Assistant Utilities Administrator Ellis, who left the meeting at 7:20 p.m. to discuss his concerns.
  - There being no more comments, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the annexation request.
  - Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
  - Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request of R-2. Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the zoning request. Councilman Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- H. Public hearing of a beer and wine package license request at a location of 1600 Dews Pond Road NE, by Mohammad Asif. Mr. Asif will also serve as the store manager.
- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
  - City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.

- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for those present wishing to comment.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the alcohol request.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the alcohol request. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

**9. New Business:**

- A. Mayor Palmer stated a motion was needed to appoint a 2022 Mayor Pro Tem in accordance to the City Charter, Section 2-302. Councilman Denmon made a motion to appoint Councilman Edwards as the 2022 Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- B. Mayor Palmer stated motions were needed to appoint/re-appoint City of Calhoun Officers and Personnel Administration for 2022 according to the City Charter and Chapter 2: Administration of the Calhoun Code of Ordinances. Councilman Denmon made a motion to appoint the following officers:

**Officers:**

- City Administrator – Paul Worley
- Utilities Administrator – Larry Vickery
- Assistant Utilities Administrator– Kyle Ellis
- City Clerk – Sharon Nelson
- City Attorney – George Govignon
- Director of Human Resources – Brooke Land
- Municipal Court Judge – Suzanne Smith
- Municipal Public Defender – Giles Jones

Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved. Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the personnel administration for the municipal and utility divisions. Councilman Edwards made a motion to appoint the following personnel administration:

**Personnel Administration - Municipal Division:**

- Department of Finance – Andrea Bramlett
- Department of Construction and Code Enforcement – Don McGinnis
- Department of Recreation – Kim Townsend
- Department of Public Safety Police Chief – Tony Pyle
- Department of Public Safety Fire Chief - Lenny Nesbitt
- Department of Public Works – Kevin McEntire

**Personnel Administration - Utility Division:**

- Department of Finance – Andrea Bramlett
- Department of Water and Wastewater – Kyle Ellis
- Department of Electric Utilities– Jeff Defoor

Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from County-Agricultural to PRD (Planned Residential Development) for 29.73 acres, at a location of 763 Highway 53 (parcel 034-007D) by Adam Baker.

1) Mayor Palmer stated that the annexation and zoning request had been withdrawn by the applicant.

- D. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from County R-4 to R-1, for 5 acres at a location of 931 & 921 Dews Pond Road (GC53-

002), by Ron Dobbs. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held February 10<sup>th</sup> and the public hearing on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

- E. Mayor Palmer read the 2022 beer and wine pouring renewal for Dub's High on the Hog. Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the renewal. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

10. **Other Written Items Not on the Agenda**

11. **Work Reports**

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator presented a resolution to establish premium pay for low to moderate income essential city employees using funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. As we all know the current employment environment is extremely challenging. The tight and competitive labor market is real. The unemployment rates are at record lows, we have a high percentage of the City workforce eligible for retirement, and we are seeing inflation levels not seen in the past 40 years. Inflation for goods and services, and also wage inflation. The City is not immune to these challenges and I believe steps must be taken to ensure we can retain our current workforce and try to attract top talent when we do lose employees to retirement or employees who decide to leave for other reasons. The City has given a 2% COLA in December of 2020, a 3% COLA in July of 2021, and a \$2,000 bonus in September of 2021. The City has given a COLA each of the past 10 years. However, we still find ourselves behind the wage averages for cities our size, and compared to cities and counties in our region. We have experienced over a 10% turnover in our Fire Department just in the past couple of months. As discussed at today's work session, we have a proposed resolution to utilize ARPA funds to implement a mid-year salary increase. The flat rate approach versus an across-the-board percent increase will allow the City to make larger percentage increases at the entry level of employment. Councilman Edwards made a motion to adopt the resolution. Councilman Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- B. Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator had nothing to report.
- C. George Govignon, City Attorney had nothing to report.


12. **Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed**

13. **Motion to return to General Session**

14. **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Council, Councilman Moyer made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH PREMIUM PAY  
FOR LOW TO MODERATE INCOME ESSENTIAL CITY EMPLOYEES USING  
FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021**

This Resolution by the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun, Georgia authorizes Premium Pay for Essential City Government employees using funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA").

**Whereas**, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The City of Calhoun, Georgia has received "ARPA" funding from the United States Treasury. The "ARPA" rules are very specific in limiting the purposes for which counties may spend the funds. The City of Calhoun has identified premium pay for essential government employees as an authorized use of "ARPA" funds.

**Whereas**, "Essential Worker" is "Any work performed by an employee of the state, local or tribal government or workers needed to maintain continuity of operations of critical infrastructure sectors." "Essential Work" is "work involving regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others, but does not include a worker who teleworked from a residence."

**Whereas**, "ARPA" rules encourage cities to provide premium pay for low and moderate income employees and the upper-level cut-off in the City of Calhoun allows premium pay to only those employees making less than \$78,116.15 per year. City employees making more than the cut-off level will not receive premium pay.

**Whereas**, City of Calhoun employees continued to provide (and do continue to provide) essential government services during the pandemic at the risk of exposure to COVID-19. The City is losing essential workers to other private and government employers that are paying higher wages. There is a legitimate public need to pay premium pay under the terms of this resolution.

**Whereas**, the Mayor and Council acknowledge that ARPA funds are a one-time allocation of funds to local governments. The U.S. Treasury's guidance dictates all ARPA funds must be encumbered no later than 12/31/2024 and all ARPA funds must be expended by 12/31/2026. Therefore, the ARPA funds are temporary in nature and steps will need to be put into place for the City to fund the premium pay on an ongoing basis. However, ARPA funds can aid the City in making a mid-year budget allocation of premium pay so that it does not adversely affect the currently adopted fiscal year budget.

**Now therefore**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun, Georgia hereby resolves and authorizes the use of Federal "ARPA" funds to establish and make a payment of premium pay to low to moderate income essential employees who meet the following criteria:

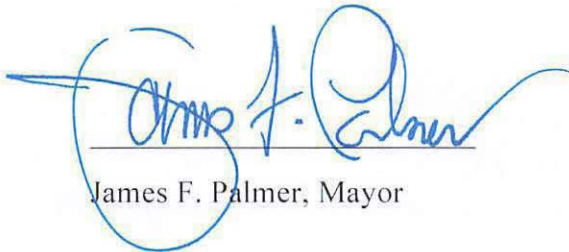
- A. Non-Public Safety City employees classified as full-time employees by the Human Resource Department are to receive a \$1.00 per hour raise to their current base wage rate.
- B. Public Safety City employees in the Calhoun Police Department and Calhoun Fire Department are to receive a \$1.50 per hour raise to their current base wage rate.
- C. City employees making \$78,116.15 or more are not eligible to receive premium pay.
- D. City employees classified as part-time by the Human Resource Department who average a minimum of 18 hours per week are to receive a \$1.00 per hour raise to their current base wage rate.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun, Georgia hereby instructs the Finance and Human Resource Departments to carry out the terms of this resolution and make the payments contemplated herein at the earliest opportunity.


So resolved, decided and approved on January 10, 2022.

AUTHORIZED:

ATTEST:



James F. Palmer, Mayor



Sharon Nelson, City Clerk