



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2019- 7:00 PM  
109 SOUTH KING STREET  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James F. Palmer, Mayor  
George R. Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilman  
Al Edwards, Councilman  
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilwoman

**ALSO:** Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator; Paul Worley, Assistant City Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Tony Pyle, Police Chief; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Kyle Ellis, Director of Water & Wastewater; Brad Carrick, Telecommunications Director.

**1. Council Meeting Called to Order**

**Welcome**

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

**Invocation**

Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave the invocation.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

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

Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the August 12, 2019 agenda as presented. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

**4. Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of July 22, 2019. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

**5. Mayor's Comments**

A. Mayor Palmer announced that qualifying for the municipal general election would be held at the Calhoun City Hall located at 226 S. Wall Street, Calhoun, Georgia, beginning at

8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 19, 2019 and ending at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Those positions that are up for election are:

- i. **Mayor**-Incumbent, James F. Palmer-Qualifying Fee \$432.00
- ii. **Council Post #1**-Incumbent, Jackie Palazzolo-Qualifying Fee \$252.00
- iii. **Council Post #2**-Incumbent, Al Edwards-Qualifying Fee \$252.00
- iv. **School Board Post #4**-Incumbent, Eddie Reeves-Qualifying Fee \$1.00
- v. **School Board Post #5**-Incumbent, Tony Swink-Qualifying Fee \$1.00

Mayor Palmer noted that school board qualifying fees were set at \$1.00 because there is no salary for school board members. They serve because of their love for the students.

## 6. **Council Comments**

A. Councilwoman Palazzolo submitted July reports as follows:

### 1) **Public Works**

#### **Animal Control**

- Housed 20 dogs and 21 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 3
- Number of cats adopted: 1
- Number of dogs rescued: 4
- Number of cats rescued: 15
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 8
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 1
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 20
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issues: 1

#### **Street Department**

1. Completed 30 shop and 29 street dept. work orders.
2. Installed 3 new street signs.
3. Repaired pot-holes and utility cuts using approximately 29 tons of asphalt.
4. Cut and remove a tree on Peters Street.
5. Installed sod at the animal control building.

#### **Cemetery Department**

1. Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
2. Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites.
3. Sold 9 new grave spaces.

#### **Parks Department**

1. The grounds crew picked up litter, mowed, trimmed bushes, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.

2. The maintenance crew maintained designated buildings downtown.
3. Painted a wall at the depot.

2) **Recreation Department**

1. **PROGRAMMING:**

**Camp South River:** Camp South River was held July 8-12; and July 15-19 with 19 participants.

**Adaptive Swim Lessons** – Swim lessons for special needs participants were held July 17, 23, 25 and 31. There were 19 registered participants.

**Adult Kickball League:** There were 6 teams that participated in our first Summer Kickball league. Games were played on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month.

**Swim:** Forty-seven Barracudas advanced to the GRPA State Swim meet in Tifton, Georgia July 12-13 participating in 91 events.

July Pool Usage:

General Public – 2,385 visits

Pool Parties – 14 parties

**FOOTBALL, CHEERLEADING, SOCCER AND VOLLEYBALL** – Registration began July 8 for all Fall programs.

2. **FACILITY USAGE:**

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

Meeting Room – 5 events

Community Room – 6 events

Ratner Pavilion – 8 events

Playground Pavilion – 3 events

Gym Free Play – 320

3. **WEBSITE USAGE:**

CalhounRec.com

Facebook

Views – 3,648

People Reached – 6,134

Posts – 39

Post Engagements - 1,812

Sessions – 1,385

Posts – 11

Users – 1,003

3) **Library**

- There are 11,992 library card holders, 9,570 library visitors, and 8,570 total circulation.
- There were 242 story time attendance, 233 adult program attendance, 105 new users, 668 e-books, 781 audio books, 1079 computer logins, and 79,924 Facebook visits.

B. Councilman Edwards submitted July reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- Construction continues on pole replacement at South Wall and West Line Street, the Park Avenue renovations, the Wal-Mart expansion and upgrades in the Old Mill Village with six new services plus pole and line improvements to enhance reliability and accessibility.
- Electrical engineering continues on the 320 South Industrial upgrade, Willow brook Subdivision Phase #2, Cookout Restaurant and Steel Roots on Tyler Drive.

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

• <u>NEWLY CREATED</u>	<u>122</u>
• <u>COMPLETED AND CLOSED</u>	<u>97</u>
• <u>CONSISTING OF:</u>	
• <u>CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>41</u>
• <u>STREET AND SECURITY LIGHTING-</u>	<u>16</u>
• <u>DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE</u>	<u>16</u>
• <u>OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS</u>	<u>12</u>
• <u>WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS</u>	<u>26</u>
• <u>NEW METER SETS</u>	<u>10</u>
• <u>METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT</u>	<u>10</u>
• <u>Electric Locate Tickets Processed-</u>	<u>365</u>
•	

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for July is estimated to be about 36,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh). This is about 7 million kWh less than July of 2018.

2) Telecommunications

- Connected three new internet customers and moved one internet service
- Increased existing customers' bandwidth by 75 megabits.
- Started fiber construction for new City School System BOE building.
- Repaired customer's buried drop fiber cut by driveway construction.
- Built a new server and upgraded phone system software to new version. Upgrade was required to continue support past January 2020. Installed new computer client software for 140 phone users. Thanks to GIS department for helping install users' software!
- Installed one new computer and ordered seven new computers.

- Installed one security camera at the Recreation Park and at Utilities Drive Thru.
- Converted one of the four remaining customers to new access system. Project is now 98% complete.
- Opened 33 and closed 31 work orders.

#### **Geographic Information Systems**

- Worked with Electric Department on service boundary mapping
- Updated parcel data with new data from the county
- Continued working with Engineering Department on Water Modeling re-calibration project
- Updated the following GIS layers
  - Water system and water meter data
  - Fire Department fire pre-plans for industrial and commercial buildings
  - Physical addressing for building and billing information
  - Changes to fiber network
  - Zoning
- Updated City and GIS web sites
- City employee GIS login statistics
  - Total logins – 1465 up 9.5% from last month
  - Top three layers accessed
    - Water – 634
    - Metering – 308
    - Fire Department - 152

#### **3) Building Inspections**

- Issued 118 permits for an estimated cost of \$6,135,866 collected \$41,233 in permit fees. This included 7 new residential, 7 residential remodel, 4 new commercial, 3 commercial remodel, 1 new industrial, 33 residential electrical, 26 residential plumbing, and 13 residential HVAC. 354 total inspections.

#### **4) Safety Committee**

- The safety committee met on July 9th and the topic of discussion was Working in Hot Conditions.
- A safety inspection was completed on July 16th at the Electric Department.
  - Vehicle accidents: 2
  - Workers compensation: 0

#### **C. Councilman Denmon submitted July reports as follows:**

##### **1) Water and Sewer Operations**

###### **Water Treatment Plant**

- Total gallons withdrawn: 350,080,000
- Daily average: 11,292,903
- Wells: 54,700,000

- Big Springs: 91,710,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 41.8%
  - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 40.02%
  - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 41.06%
  - Rainfall for November – 2.26”

**Waste Water Treatment Plant**

- Treated a daily average of 3.427 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 2, average suspended effluent of 10, and an average COD of 66.

**Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection**

- 380 work orders completed, 30 new water connections, 27 water service leaks repaired, 18 water main leaks repaired, 10 water services changed to new main lines, 175 meter changes, 75 utility locates called in for work orders, 625 utility locates responses.
- 3,600 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 477 utility locates completed, 5,900 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 22 new sewer connections installed, 4 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

**Water and Sewer Systems Active Projects**

- As part of the new NPDES requirements, steps are underway to meet the storm water segment of the Watershed Protection Plan. EPD notified us on April 17th that our Section 319 Grant for Lynn Creek has been awarded. Contract should arrive soon.
- The North Henderson Bend Lift Station is nearing completion.
- The two inch galvanized line replacement continues utilizing city forces.
- S.R. 156 Water Main Relocation (GDOT/ RR Bridge Replacement @ Ranger) – We have coordinated with the bridge contractor to install the new main on the new bridge.
- Ranger 12” Water Transmission Main – Materials are on site and permits have been acquired. This project is under construction.
- New 2.0 Million Gallon Tank on Pittman Road – The Project was awarded to PRECON TANKS, with construction to begin August 12, 2019.
- Peters Street Phase II Water and Sewer Relocations – Construction has begun on the section not involving AT & T.
- Hwy 41 South Sewer Extension – The Project was awarded to Gordy Construction, with construction to begin the week of July 15th.

**Water & Sewer Projects in Development**

- North Wall Street and Redbud Road Intersection improvements- GDOT asked for, and were given an estimate to relocate any utilities in conflict with the proposed project.
- S.R. 136 Water Main Relocation for new Bridges at the Coosawattee River
- 4” water main relocation on South Wall Street to accommodate drainage for the new City Schools Central Office.

## Projects in Engineering Conceptual Design

### Sewer

- Blackwood Creek Trunk Sewer Replacement
- Yarborough Street Replacement Sewer
- Louise Ave., Cherry St., and Florence Ave. Sewer Replacement
- Sewer Main relocation for the airport project.
- Old Fairmount Hwy Sewer Extension

### Water

- Bellwood Road Water Transmission Main
- Reeves Station Water Main (replacing existing 6" C. I. with an 8")
- Second Interconnect with Pickens County
- GDOT SR 156/Salacoa Creek Bridges. Scheduled for 2020
- SR 225 8" water main river crossing

### 3) Downtown Development Authority

D. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley submitted July reports as follows:

#### 1) Police Department

- Made 431 cases with 9 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$39,761
- Issued 547 warnings
- Investigated 43 highway accidents, 35 private property accidents
- Escorts - 53
- Incident reports -1,371
- Alarm responses - 269
- Miles patrolled: 52,969

#### 2) Municipal Court

- Total Court cases- 428
- Court cases dropped- 110
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 212
- Number of Probation cases- 45
- Failure to appear- 45
- Subpoenas served- 6

#### 3) Fire Department

##### Fire Suppression Division

191 Total reported calls for service for the Suppression Division

##### Dispatched Calls

5	Fire Incidents (\$25,000.00 in estimated Fire damage)
0	Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (NO FIRE)
107	Emergency Medical Services / Rescue (Injuries, Medical, or Fatality)
9	Hazardous Conditions Incidents (NO FIRE; Leaks, Spills, Electrical

- Hazards; All Other Hazardous Conditions without injuries)
- 8 Service Calls (Water Leak; Assist Other Agencies with Non-Emergency Calls).
- 39 Good Intent Calls (Smoke / Odor check; Investigation of Unknown Problem)
- 19 False Alarms or False Calls
- 0 Severe Weather & Natural Disaster
- 0 Special Incident Type (Citizen Complaint; Other)

**Additional Fire Department Activities**

- Assisted with the annual Mud Volley Ball Tournament

**Training Division**

- CFD completed 429 Total Man Hours of training during the month.

**Training consisted of:**

- Training consisted of Incident Command, Search and Rescue, Incident Reporting and Accountability, and Driver Training.

**Fire Inspections - Public Safety Education - Code Enforcement Division**

105 Total Reported Activities / Inspections completed during the month.

**Inspections / Enforcement**

- 34 Annual Inspection
- 6 New Business Inspections
- 31 Requested Inspections
- 15 Follow Up, Re-Inspections
- 1 Burn Site Inspections
- 1 Plan Reviews
- 0 Pre-Construction Meetings
- 0 Sprinkler Permits Issued
- 1 Fuel Tank Permit (Install, Removal or Service)
- 16 Consultations
- 0 Illegal Burning Citations

**Additional Inspection - Public Safety & Codes Division Activities**

- Lt. Duvall attended City Safety Meeting and Inspection.

**7. Public Hearing and Comments**

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 speaking having filed a financial disclosure statement five days prior to the hearing if required, 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.

- A. Public hearing of a front setback Variance Request of 20 feet, to vary from 35 feet to 15 feet, at a location of 417 South River Street, parcel C13-001B01, by Apache Mills, Inc. on behalf of Wildstein Realty Company, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
  - Assistant City Administrator Worley stated that all legal requirements and notices had been met.
  - Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating they were in favor of the variance. City Attorney Govignon stated that the variance satisfies the legal requirements of Section 6.61 of the Zoning Ordinance.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments. There were none.
  - Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the variance request.
  - Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
  
- B. Public hearing of a Pawn Shop License Application for Northwest Georgia Pawn at a location of 142 West Belmont Drive, by Brandon Loftih Kempson. Mr. Kempson is listed as the owner and manager.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
  - Assistant City Administrator Worley stated that all legal requirements and notices had been met.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments. There were none.
  - Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the Pawn Shop application.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the application. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
  
- C. Public hearing of a Beer and Wine package license, at a location of 1081 Belwood Road, SE, by Love's Travel Stop #735. The store manager is Doug Pike.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
  - Assistant City Administrator Worley stated that all legal requirements and notices had been met.
  - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments. There were none.
  - Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the Beer and Wine Package application.
  - Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the beer and wine package license. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

## 8. Old Business

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of amendments to Chapter 6, Section 6-34 and 6-40 of the City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances pertaining to store manager residency requirements for establishments serving alcohol. The amendment will allow for residents of counties adjacent to Gordon County to

serve as store managers of establishments serving alcoholic beverages. The public hearing will be on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

- B. Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of a Beer pouring license, at a location of 273 Hwy 53 East, Suite 1, by Wings of Calhoun, LLC, DBA Buffalo Luke's. The owner/applicant is Robert Stoll. A store manager will be named prior to the public hearing, scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**9. New Business:**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an ordinance and adoption agreement to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Calhoun, Georgia, to update the Plan to comply with PPA, HEART, WRERA, and other applicable federal laws and guidance. Eligible for adoption on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a sign size variance request of 125 square feet, to vary from the required 25 square feet limit up to a total of 150 square feet for the face of the sign. Also, a sign height variance request of 15 feet, to vary from the required 15 feet limit up to a total of 30 feet for the height of the sign, at a location of 225 Lovers Lane, by Ortwein Sign, on behalf of Dews Pond, LLC (Food City). The sign variance requests are for a total of two signs; one at the Dews Pond Road entrance to the property and one at the Lovers Lane Road entrance. The Zoning Advisory Board is scheduled to meet on September 5<sup>th</sup> and the public hearing will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a Beer Package License, at a location of 876 North Wall Street, by Kiesha's Produce. The owner/applicant is Lakiesha Cudd. Ms. Cudd will also serve as the store manager. The public hearing will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Mayor Palmer read a parade request by Calhoun City Schools, starting on the traditional route, then turning right on Hicks Street, right on Park Avenue, left on Oothcalooga Street, and then arriving at the school campus for the Calhoun High School Homecoming Parade on Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The rain date will be Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 pm, if needed (May be approved/denied, subject to GDOT approval). Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the parade request. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer read a parade request by Gordon County Schools, on the traditional route for the Gordon Central Homecoming Parade on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 p.m. (May be approved/denied, subject to GDOT approval). Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the parade request. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

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

**11. Work Reports**

- A. Paul Worley, Assistant City Administrator gave an update on the Recreation Department trail expansion stating that another mile of the loop at the walking trail will be complete this week. This adds an additional mile to the current 1.5 mile loop. The width of the path has also been extended to 10 feet and will be

paved next week. Upon completion of the trail we will roll right into building the dog park, which should not take very long to complete as well.

B. Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator had nothing to report.

C. George Govignon, City Attorney had nothing to report.

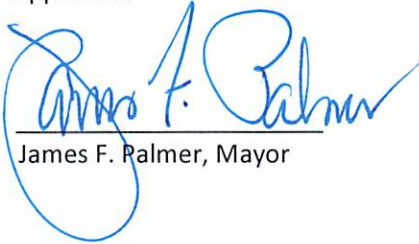
12. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

13. Motion to return to General Session

14. Motion to Adjourn

There being no additional business Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Approved:



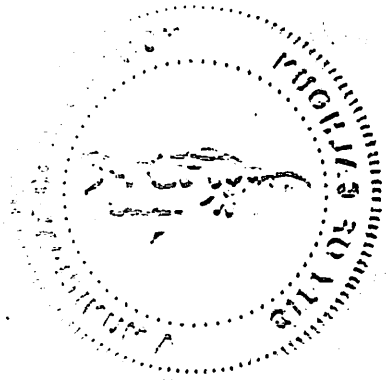
James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Sharon Nelson, City Clerk





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