

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
OCTOBER 12, 2015 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Paul Worley, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Todd Holbert, Battalion Chief

- 1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
A. Mayor Palmer gave the invocation.**
- 2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.**
- 3. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Barton seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.**
- 4. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2015 City Council meeting. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
- 5. Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer read and presented a proclamation for November 16-20 being designated as National Education Week. The Proclamation was submitted by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 47. Retired Educator Dr. Joann T. Meadows, Unit 47 Educational Chairman, was in attendance to receive the proclamation. After the reading Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve with a second by Councilman Barton. All voted aye, motion approved.**
 - B. Mayor Palmer made the following election announcement: There will be an Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) referendum on the November 3, 2015 ballot. This will be for both Gordon County and City school systems. Mayor Palmer encouraged everyone to review the ESPLOST referendum as it is very important for our local schools. Also, the City of Calhoun candidates for the November 3, 2015 general municipal election:**
 - Mayor- James F. Palmer, incumbent; Mary Mays
 - Calhoun City Council Post #1- George Crowley, incumbent; Jackie Palazzolo
 - Calhoun City Council Post #2- Al Edwards, incumbent- unopposed
 - Calhoun City School Board Post #4- Eddie Reeves, incumbent- unopposed
 - Calhoun City School Board Post #5- Tony Swink, incumbent- unopposed

- C. The City of Calhoun will observe Halloween on Saturday October 31st from 5:00pm to 9:00pm for ages 12 and under. Also, the downtown merchants and businesses will host Trick or Treat in Downtown Calhoun on Friday October 30th from 4:00 until 5:30pm.

6. Council Comments:

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the September report as follows:

- 1) **Electric Department**

- o The Bad Pole Replacement program continues on South 41 and Richardson Road.
- o Phase #1 of the Devonwood's underground conversion has begun. This is our worst performing circuit, with three breaker lockouts lasting more than 60 seconds this year.
- o Christmas lights are going up in Calhoun. Alan McCormick has begun rehanging and rebulbing over 12,000 Christmas lights for Downtown Calhoun.
- o The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for September was 39,220,960 kWh.

- Work orders in process or completed

- o Newly created- 78
- o Completed and closed- 66
- o Consisting of:
 - o Capital construction- 6
 - o Street and security lighting-20
 - o Distribution Maintenance-14
 - o Meter maintenance/replacement- 13
 - o New customer meter sets- 9
 - o Electric locate tickets processed- 211

- 2) **Telecommunications Departments:**

- o Added one and removed one internet customer.
- o Added 100 megabits of internet bandwidth to existing customers.
- o Added 120 megabits of bandwidth to existing point-to-point customers.
- o Installed internet connection for new GPS base station located at Water Plant.
- o Repaired fiber cut on Enterprise Drive caused by local exchange carrier vendor underground construction.
- o Moved service connections of two customers relocating to new offices.
- o Started planning fiber splicing for fiber relocation on Highway 41 North.
- o Added hard disk space to backup server for long term storage.
- o Coordinating financial software upgrade for October implementation.
- o Upgraded disaster recovery instructions to correct minor points.
- o Participated in training for Online Utility Exchange program.
- o Received training and tested new access equipment as possible replacement for existing equipment being discontinued.

- Programmed Calhoun/Gordon County Library phone system for voice mail extensions and provided user training.
- Completed 5 pole transfers.
- Opened 25 and closed 22 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Installed GIS software onto new servers and migrated database from old server.
- Upgraded desktop computers with ArcGIS software.
- Setup and configured new web portal to new servers.
- Received new aerial photos and parcel data from Gordon County GIS and installed on new servers.
- Continued training with water modeling software.
- Updated water meter mapping and meter information.
- Updated pre fire plans and hydrant data for Fire Department
- Updated station zone mapping for Fire Department.
- Updated fiber map for Telecom Department.
- Updated City and GIS websites.

4) Downtown Development Authority

- The DDA and HPC held regular monthly meetings. The DDA director attended the Georgia Main Street Manager Mentor/Mentee program meeting; a CVB/Tourism Committee Meeting; a Small Business Development/Marketing meeting; and a Young Professionals meeting.
- The director is currently planning Harvest Fest. The date is set for October 24th from 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. in downtown. There will be children's activities, arts, crafts, music, and food vendors. There was new sod installed in the BB&T Park. The scarecrows are currently being placed in the downtown area, as well as the fall decorations. The DDA and HPC encouraged our citizens to help us keep downtown clean and safe.

B. Councilman Barton gave the September report as follows:

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

- Clarifier Mechanism Replacement Project- Project is complete and the start-up is scheduled for October 13th.
- 2" Galvanized Line Replacement Project- The first project area off Newtown Road has been completed and the second project area in the Hunts Subdivision has begun.
- Flocculation and Sedimentation Control Project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant- The work on basin No. 1, 2, and 4 is complete and basin No. 3 is underway.
- The new bar screens at the Wastewater Treatment Plant arrived August 24th and are in operation.
- Peters Street Water and Sewer Relocation- Construction is scheduled to begin in late September.

- Floyd County is nearing the connection point with our water system on Hwy 53 West.
- 2015 Annual Unidirectional Flushing Program is underway.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 328,580,000
- Daily average: 10,952,666
- Wells: 142,410,000
- Big Springs: 0
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 43.3
- Rainfall- 2.19"
- Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 36.8%
- Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 38.1%

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 3.397 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 3, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 74.

4) Water Distribution

- 12 Water connections, 53 water service leaks repaired, 21 water main leaks repaired, 242 water meters changed out/maintenance, 5 yards or roadway edges repaired due to previous work, 53 utility locates called in for work orders, 494 utility locates responded to, and 71 misc. calls
- Began installing 2,300' of 6" ductile iron pipe to serve a chicken house complex on Old Boone Ford Road.
- Began installing new 8" ductile iron pipe to serve a chicken house complex on Pleasant Hill Road.
- Began installing new 8" ductile iron pipe along LG Drive to upgrade water line feed to the plant.

5) Waste Water Collection

- 1,200' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 271 utility locates completed, 3 repairs completed to manholes, 4,800' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 68 manholes opened and inspected, 4 new sanitary sewer connections, 7 sanitary sewer services repaired

6) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 45 permits for an estimated cost of \$637,134, collected \$7,327 in permit fees. This included 3 new residential, 1 new commercial, 1 commercial remodels, 12 residential electrical; 3 sign permits, and 45 total inspections.

7) Recreation Department

- **PARK EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE** – October 7 – met with BWSC representatives – Steve Fritts and Joe Sawyer along with Terry Mill – Fire Department – discuss emergency entrances for park.
- October 13- scheduled meeting with BWSC representatives and Utilities Department heads to go over the site grading plans.

- **FALL SPORTS** - Youth football games began September 14. 46 games were played throughout the month. Games are played on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays through October.
Youth Soccer – Youth Soccer games began September 12. 110 games were played throughout the month. Youth Soccer games are played on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays through October.
- The recreation Advisory Board will meet on October 21st at 12:30pm.

C. Councilman Crowley gave the September report as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 536 cases with 7 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$53,319
- Issued 597 warnings
- Investigated 68 highway accidents, 44 private property accidents
- Provided 72 escorts
- 1,671 incident reports
- Responded to 279 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 51,960
- Responded to 4,719 calls for service by E-911

2) **Municipal Court and Probation**

- Total Court cases- 342
- Court cases dropped- 77
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 203
- Number of Probation cases- 30
- Probation Payments- \$16,415
- Probation Revocations- 5
- Failure to appear- 32
- Prisoner transports- 17
- Subpoenas served- 13

3) **Fire Department- Suppression**

- Responded to 148 calls for service for the suppression division, 0 fire incidents for damages.
- Responded to 99 medical service calls
- Responded to 7 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 14 false alarms or false calls, 20 good intent
- Assisted with the NWGA Fair Parade and the CHS Homecoming Parade.
- Completed required twice per year flowing and maintenance on City controlled fire hydrants.

Training Division

- Department completed 1,010 hours of training.
- Training consisted of apparatus driver, operator training, Acting Officer in Charge class, Structural Collapse class, and state required core skills.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 126 total reported activities/inspections which included 24 annual inspections, 3 new business inspections, 29 requested inspections, 32 follow-up or re-inspections, and 33 consultations
- Inspector Fox conducted a Fire Prevention program with Foster Parents at Belmont Church.
- Lt. Fox tagged and GPS located 11 new fire hydrants.
- Fire extinguisher training for CHS students and Apache Mills employees.
- Fire Drills conducted at Gordon Healthcare.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the September report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Completed 20 shop and 16 street department work orders.
- Installed 10 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Installed 9,000 square feet of sod at the BB&T Park.
- Repaired a storm drain on College Street.
- Repaired pot holes and utility cuts using 25 tons of asphalt.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 13 grave sites.
- Sold 11 new grave spaces.

3) Animal Control

- Housed 24 dogs, and 20 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 10
- Number of cats adopted: 1
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 2
- Number of dogs euthanized: 3
- Number of cats euthanized: 5
- Number of warnings given: 22
- Number of bite cases: 1
- Citations issues: 1
- Number of inquiries: 53
- Councilman Hammond stated that the City has made new investments in the Animal Control Department and is seeing positive results. There is a recently expanded Animal Control Center to help expand kennel space for dogs and cats. There is also a viewing area for those wanting to adopt pets. For more information you can find us on Facebook at City of Calhoun Animal Control for adoption and volunteer opportunities.

4) Parks Department

- The Parks Department grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.

- Mowed and weedeated approximately 19 miles of 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.

5) Safety Committee

- Safety topic- Head Protection
- Safety Inspection- Fields Ferry Golf Club
- Vehicle Accidents: 1- Police; 1- Street
- Workers Compensation: 2- Water Construction

6) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- Councilman Hammond discussed that the Regional Commission (RC) oversees 15 counties and 51 cities in Northwest Georgia that helps to reallocate federal dollars to various programs that benefit the citizens such as meals on wheels, workforce training, community planning, area on aging, and community and economic development.
- Councilman Hammond stated that Gordon County's unemployment rate is now 5.7% and the State's is at 5.9%. The regional unemployment rate is also 5.9%. Councilman Hammond also reported on the average wages county by county in the region. The average wage rate in Gordon County is \$36,677 and the average for the region is \$35,200.

7) Tom B. David Airport

- The airport is the 7th largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia. The airport has a 6,000 foot runway and is home to the Life Force helicopter. Also, the airport has received a \$3.1 million dollar Federal grant to build a taxiway that will enable the airport to handle more traffic in and out.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

A. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing on an annexation and zoning request of R1-B for 0.63 acres at a location of 257 Hines Road for Wuilliam Lopez.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Palmer stated that there was not a quorum at the last Zoning Advisory Board meeting and asked Administrator Peterson to review the Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) minutes from October 1st. Mr. Peterson stated that the annexation would help fill in an island, which is a goal of the City's future land use map. The main issue from the ZRC is fire protection. The Calhoun Fire Department report showed that they cannot provide adequate fire protection because of delayed time in establishing a water supply. The nearest hydrant is located in Westwood Hills at a distance of 956 feet. City ordinance requires a distance no longer than 300 feet. Also, the existing 2" water line will not support a new fire hydrant on this street. This residence is in Station #3 response district. As we have done in the

past with similar situations, the applicants will be made aware of these issues and must agree to a possible delayed response time on fire protection.

- There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the annexation contingent upon the applicants agreeing to a possible delayed fire protection response time. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the zoning of R1-B. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

B. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing on an annexation and zoning request of R1-B for 0.29 acres at a location of 221 Cherokee Drive for Alvin and Sandra Hale.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mr. Peterson reviewed the ZRC minutes. This annexation request also helps to fill in an island and there are already several City parcels in this area. Again, it is the intent of the City to fill in existing islands with a primary purpose of improving public safety. Island in-fills help clear up jurisdiction issues, which is especially important when it comes to response times for police and fire protection. The City's 2007-2027 future development map shows this area becoming a part of the City of Calhoun.
- There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the zoning of R1-B. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

C. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing on a de-annexation request of R1 for 0.95 acres at a location of 109 Sylvan Drive for Marty and Patricia Brown.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mr. Peterson reviewed the ZRC minutes. A de-annexation in this area would be the opposite of the goal of island in-fill and would go against the City's long range planning goals according to the 2007-2027 future development map. Sylvan Drive is in an area that shows complete annexation for the long range plan. The de-annexation would move the City backwards from this goal.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments and Patricia Brown stated that they were requesting to de-annex so their children can continue to attend Gordon County schools.
- There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Hammond made a motion to deny the de-annexation request. Councilman Hammond stated the he has served on an annexation appeals board for GMA and ACCG as an arbitrator. With this experience, it was a

requirement not to de-annex property that had gone through the proper review and due diligence to bring the property into the municipality to start with. This was a practice recommended by that body for positive community growth. Councilman Barton seconded the motion to deny with all voting aye, motion approved.

D. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing on a de-annexation request of PRD by North Georgia National Bank for a location of Tate Bend Road for 19.7 acres for map parcel #CG41B-061.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mr. Peterson reviewed the ZRC minutes. Again, a de-annexation would go against the 2007-2027 long range development plans of the City. This particular property acts as a boundary setting between the City of Calhoun and the City of Resaca.
- Councilman Crowley stated he would abstain from voting because he is an employee of North Georgia National Bank.
- There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Hammond made a motion to deny the de-annexation request based on the same reasoning given with the last denial of de-annexation. Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. Councilman Hammond, Councilman Edwards, and Councilman Barton voted to deny the de-annexation request.

E. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing on a variance request by Timothy Kirby at a location of 201 Chandler Street. The request is a 10' side set back variance request for a distance of 10 feet to 0 feet to add on to a non-conforming building that was built on the property line in 1938.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mr. Peterson reviewed the ZRC minutes and stated that the applicant has contacted all of his adjoining neighbors and the neighbors did not have an issue with the variance request. The ZRC also did not have any problems to report.
- There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

F. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing on a variance request to allow an existing building to be used as an animal clinic, 43 foot variance request from property line, for Barrett Investment Enterprises at a location of 637 Oothcalooga Street.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mr. Peterson reviewed the ZRC minutes. This area has started to transform from a blighted area with the rehabilitation of the Cherokee Mills Loft Project. The old Ford Supermarket, currently operating as a thrift store, and old Defax building falls into this same area. The ZRC felt like it would be a benefit to have someone come in and help to rehabilitate this property. The animal clinic proposing this project has indicated only certain activities will be performed at this clinic and the City will hold them to their proposal. The City will do this to help prevent a nuisance situation.
- Mayor Palmer asked for comments from the applicant or their representative. Bob Caperton with Barrett Investment Enterprises was in attendance to answer any questions. Councilman Hammond agreed that it is a blighted area that needs economic growth, but there is a concern about it being so close to senior housing. Will this create a nuisance with barking dogs especially if dogs are boarded overnight? One of the operators of the proposed animal clinic, Kimberly Ott with the National Spay Alliance Foundation, stated that there will not be any overnight stays as this is a day hospital. There is also no animals housed outside, similar to their facility in the City of Dalton. This is a brick building and the inside noise will be muted. The animals would arrive in the morning, but will leave in the afternoon. The organization has been in business a little over two years. The facility will be used as low cost spay/neuter and low cost wellness care for the animals. The demand for the organization's services has increased dramatically. Mrs. Ott stated that they have already been working with the local animal control agencies. Mr. Peterson asked questions about modification plans for both buildings on the property. Mr. Caperton stated that they do have plans to renovate the old defax building as possible office space in the long run, but the animal clinic would only utilize the current thrift store building. Barrett Investment Enterprises has a track record over the past 20 years in rehabbing properties similar to this one. For the animal clinic building there is plans to fix the roof, clean up the outside, fix the sign, and try to give a much more aesthetically appealing building for the whole property. Councilman Hammond asked and Attorney Govignon confirmed that if there is rehab and future use of the old defax building the applicants would have to go through the process again and have future proposals considered through the City Council.
- There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

8. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a beer and wine pouring license request by Joshua Sellers DBA: Sellers Chop House at a location of 114 Court Street. The public hearing will be on October 26th.
- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a beer and wine package license request by Vinod Patel DBA: A Knight's #2 at a location of 1531 Dews Pond Road. The proposed manager is Terry Patel. The public hearing will be on October 26th.
- C. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 22: Businesses, Article III: Division 5- Recycling processing centers for the purchase, sale or processing of post-consumer or post-industrial materials and to amend the zoning ordinance. Attorney Govignon stated that this ordinance has the principal purpose of categorizing three different levels of recycling into Commercial Recycling Centers, Scrap Metal Processors, and Industrial Recycling Processing Centers. The three different levels allows for different regulations appropriate for the varying recycling activities. This includes requirements such as suitable set-backs, fencing, and paved parking and driveways. Existing recycling facilities will be grandfathered, but will be required to register with the City within 90 days. After the registration, any material change to the operation will require re-permitting and conformance to the new ordinance. The public hearing will be on October 26th.

9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of PRD for 8.52 acres at a location of 4560 Fairmount Highway by Glenda Sloan, agent for Charles and Nancy Richards. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on November 5, 2015. The Public Hearing will be on November 9, 2015.
- B. Mayor Palmer reviewed a Special Event request from Saint Clement's Catholic Church for the Pilgrimage Procession to Our Lady of Guadalupe on a route of: begin at the Calhoun Community Church parking lot (222 WC Bryant Parkway), to SR 41 north, left onto SR 53, Court St. and down the 53 Spur to the Calhoun Civic Auditorium on December 13, 2015 at 12:30 P.M. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the special event application. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. The event request will also be subject to GDOT approval.

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

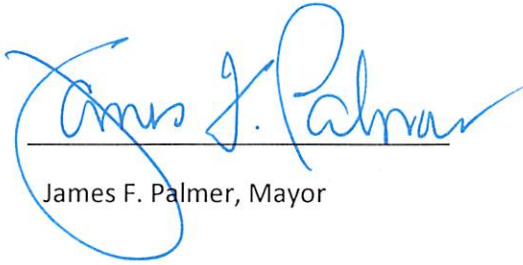
11. Work Reports:

- A. City Administrator Peterson
- B. Utilities General Manager Vickery
- C. City Attorney Govignon

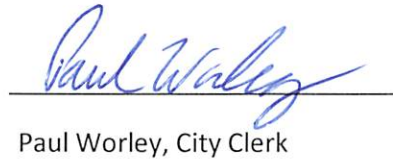
12. Councilman Hammond made a motion to adjourn the regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barton with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:

Submitted:



James F. Palmer, Mayor



Paul Worley, City Clerk