



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 9, 2026 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ed Moyer, Mayor Pro Tem
Al Edwards, Councilmember
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilmember
Bruce Potts, Councilmember

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; Mike Schutz, Fire Chief; Lt. Col. Ken Carson, Police Department.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**
Welcome
Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
Invocation
Councilmember Edwards 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**
Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**
Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the minutes of the council meeting of December 22, 2025. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments**

6. Council Comments

A. Councilmember Palazzolo submitted February reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 197 cases with 9 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$33,209
- Issued 411 warnings
- Investigated 53 highway accidents, 29 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 0
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 2
- Alarm responses - 103
- Miles patrolled: 44,874

2) **Municipal Court**

- Citations from Police Department-197
- Court cases docketed - 202
- Probation cases assigned - 10
- Probation revocations - 0
- Bench warrants - 4
- Failure to appear - 15

3) **Fire Department**

Suppression Division

- 191 – Total Calls for Service to Include:
 - 7 – Fire Calls
 - 145 – Rescue and EMS Response
 - 39 – Service Calls
- 9.55% decrease in call volume from January

Department Response Times

- Turnout Time – 1 minute 48 seconds
- Travel Time – 3 minutes 43 seconds
- Total Response Time – 5 minutes and 31 seconds
- 0.03% decrease in response times from January

Inspections Division

- 4 – Annual Inspections
- 6 – Plan Reviews
- 0 – Zoning and Annexation Meetings
- 30% decrease in inspections from January

Training Division

- 1341 Hours – Total Department Monthly Training Hours
- 11.69% decrease in training hours from January

Public Relations

- 9 – Public Relations Events

- 57 – Adults that received Fire and Life Safety Education
- 43 – Children that received Fire and Life Safety Education
- 24% decrease in individuals reached from January

Department Monthly Events

- February 6th, 2026 – Hosted CPAT for New Hires
- February 9th, 2026 – Bearers of Oath Conference 182 people in attendance from 17 States, Mexico, and Canada. 5 days of realistic, live-fire hands-on training.
- February 16th, 2026 – Hosted Georgia State Patrol SWAT for Training
- February 18th, 2026 – CPR Course Completed for Calhoun Recreation Department
- February 19th, 2026 – Stop the Bleed Course Completed for United Way Lunch and Learn and Voluntary Action Center.
- February 23rd, 2026 – Completed Advanced EMT Initial Education Program with Firefighters Springfield, Thayer, White, and Williams successfully completing the program.
- February 25th, 2026 – Hosted the Calhoun/Gordon County Youth Leadership Program to provide education on Department Operations.
- February 25th, 2026 – Participated in the Defensive Driving Program with Safety Committee

March Upcoming Events

- March 5th, 2026 – Community CPR Event
- March 6th, 2026 – Community Emergency Response Training
- March 9th, 2026 – Fire Instructor I Course
- March 14th, 2026 – Heavy Vehicle Extrication Course
- March 16th, 2026 – IAAI Fire Investigation Conference
- March 17th, 2026 – Fire Origin and Cause Determination Course
- March 17th, 2026 – GSAR Quarterly Training
- March 26th, 2026 – Community Fire Extinguisher Training Course

4) **Safety Committee**

The safety topic of discussion this month was Workplace Safety. Safety inspections were performed at the Library and all Utilities buildings.

- Vehicle accidents: 0
- Workers compensation: 0

5) **Library**

- There are 1,306 library card holders, 4,785 library visitors, and 6,492 total circulation.
- There were 258 story time attendance, 306 adult program attendance, 108 new users, 1,602 e-books, 2,720 audio books, 313 computer logins, and 7,805 Facebook visits.

B. Councilmember Edwards presented February reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Current Electric Department Engineering and Construction:

The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.

ENGINEERING

Dialysis Center on Curtis Pkwy
Store on Curtis Pkwy
New Recreation Department

CONSTRUCTION

New development on Peters St (102 homes)
New field house and hitting facility at Calhoun High School
Salacoa Subdivision
Devonwood Underground Conversion
Piedmont Street Pole Upgrades
New townhomes on Newtown Rd (Ridgeview) (65 units)
Reroute of the Salem Rd pump station line
Continued system upgrades for new growth and system reliability
120 Professional Court 6 unit building

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:

• NEWLY CREATED	56
•	
•	
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	21
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	2
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	4
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	2
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	2
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	17
• NEW METER SETS	5
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	80
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	191
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The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for FEBRUARY 2026 is about 27.5 million kilowatt hours (kWh's).

2) **Telecommunications**

- FCC CPNI annual report submitted.

- Completed virtual server hard drive upgrade on our Central Office site for additional storage.
- Worked with Northstar Billing System on updating software to newer version.
- Completed Firewall firmware updates at Police Department and Central Office.
- Completed police department pulse software update for GCIC network.
- Completed fiber relocation project at a customer's site.
- Completed software updates on Email server.
- Setup and installed 4 new laptop/desktop computers and 1 new monitor.
- Troubleshooted a number of customer's internet connections.
- Submitted 6 quotes for new internet customers and 1 dark fiber lease quote.
- Setup 2 new internet customers.
- Setup 1 new point to point customer.
- Upgraded Internet speed for 3 existing customers.
- Completed a number of 811 fiber locates.
- Opened 10 work orders and closed 3 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Completed and Submitted Annual U.S. Census Boundary Survey Data.
- Got the 2 new GIS servers installed into rack and have started configuring.
- Water audit GIS access setup for outside user.
- Water meter and water system updates.
- Submitted updated Electric data to our locate company USIC.
- Update Sewer data in GIS
- Updated cemetery mapping data
- Generated Electric Usage Reports
- Updated data and mapping for the following:
 - Water system and meter updates
 - Fiber
 - Zoning
- Updated Physical addressing, building and billing information.
- Updated City and GIS web sites.

3) Building Inspections

Issued 137 permits for an estimated cost of \$8,450,260, collected \$58,420 in permit fees. This included 19 new residential, 5 residential remodel, 2 new commercial, 4 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 1 industrial remodel, 19 residential plumbing, 21 residential electrical, 23 residential HVAC, 2 commercial plumbing, 3 commercial electrical, 0 commercial HVAC, 0 industrial plumbing, and 0 industrial electrical. 322 total inspections.

4) Zoning Advisory Board

C. Councilmember Potts submitted February reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 332,170,00
- Daily average: 11,863,214
- Wells: 58,570,000
- Big Springs: 93,270,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 45.7%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 45.96%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 40.25 %
 - Rainfall for February – 2.79"

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 5.463 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 12, and an average COD of 98.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 338 work orders completed, 33 new water connections, 7 water service leaks repaired, 28 water main leaks repaired, 54 meter changes, 35 utility locates called in for work orders, 600 utility locates responses.
- 1,700 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 535 utility locates completed, 0 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 0 new sewer connections installed, 28 sanitary sewer connections installed by contractors, 4 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

Projects Under Construction

- Brittany Dr & Water Booster Stations Standby Generator Project – This project is approximately 95% completed. The only outstanding item for this project is to integrate the controls within our plant SCADA system, and conduct final testing of operational components. The completion of this project is anticipated for the beginning of April.
- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project – This project consists of improving an older segment of our sewer system to reduce I&I and free up additional capacity of this sub-basin. The scope includes upgrading approx. 6,000' of sewer main from a 12 inch to 15 inches. This project is approximately 80% completed, and the only remaining portion is an 800' segment along Stewart Dr.
- GDOT SR 53 & Brown Lee Mtn. Water Relocation Project – This project is under construction and consists of consolidating, relocating, and upsizing two different water lines to accommodate highway improvements near the intersection. This project is approximately 90% completed.

Projects in Design & Development

- New Fire Tower Water Tank Project – Surveying has been completed and design is underway. This project consists of replacing an aging and undersized 1 million gallon tank for a new 2 million gallon tank on the north side of our system.
- Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Modifications
- GDOT SR 156 @ Salacoa Bridge Water Relocation Project. - This project consists of relocating approximately 4,000' of 8" water lines to accommodate a GDOT bridge replacement project.
- Salem Rd Bridge Water Relocation Project - This project consists of relocating approximately 600' of 12" water lines to accommodate a Gordon County bridge replacement project.
- Boone Ford @ Lovers Lane Water Relocation Project – This project consists relocating approximately 500' of varying-sized lines to accommodate a Gordon County intersection improvement project.
- Peters St. Phase III Water Relocation – Under preliminary review.
- Curtis Pkwy Water & Sewer Relocation – Right-of-way acquisition is currently underway, and material for this project has been delivered. This project consists of relocating existing water and sewer lines for road and intersection improvements along Curtis Pkwy.
- Engineering for Spring Valley Sewer Phase II Rehabilitation Project (70% Complete) This project is a continuation of Ph I, which focuses on improving an older segment of our sewer system to reduce I&I and free up additional capacity in this sub-basin
- The Engineering Department is actively working on 8 plan reviews, along with 18 inspections of developments and projects that are progressively under construction.

3) **Revolving Loan**

4) **Regional Commission**

D. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer submitted February reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

- Completed 18 shop and 15 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 6 new street signs.
- Repaired catch basin in Parks Place.
- Cleaned out ditch on Windsor Drive

Cemetery

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 8 grave sites.
- Sold 3 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.
- Cleaned water fountains downtown.

Animal Control

- Housed 17 dogs and 7 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 7
- Number of cats adopted: 4
- Number of dogs rescued: 0
- Number of cats rescued: 0
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 3
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 6
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issued: 0

2) **Recreation Department**

PROGRAMS:

YOUTH SOCCER –A total of 451 participants registered for Spring Soccer. Registration ended February 6 and assessments were held February 9 and 10. Drafts were held February 11 and 12. Practices began February 16 and games will start March 9.

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL – Registration ended February 27 with 108 girls registered for Spring Volleyball. Assessments were held March 2 and drafts March 3. Practices begin March 5.

YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL – There are a total of 362 boys and girls participating in baseball and softball. Registration ended February 20. Assessments were held February 24 and drafts were February 25 and 26.

YOUTH TRACK – This spring started inaugural season for youth track. There are 63 boys and girls registered for the program. Practices and meets will be held at Calhoun High School.

YOUTH BASKETBALL - There were 4 teams that represented Calhoun in the GRPA 5th District Basketball Tournaments February 20-24.

Spring Sports Registration is up by 104 participants.

12TH ANNUAL UNITED WAY ALL-STAR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - was held February 10-14. There were 31 teams that participated in the tournament.

There were 372 participants and 1,674 spectators. This annual event is a fundraiser sponsored by Calhoun Recreation and Gordon County Parks and Recreation. The proceeds from this event go to scholarships for youth programs offered by each agency.

TENNIS –

League Play: 18 + Over – 134 participants

Drills and Instruction Daily – Approximately 40 participants weekly

CHS held inaugural invitational tennis tournament Feb 27-28; over 700 in attendance over the 2 days.

PARKS/FACILITIES:

Field Maintenance and Preparation:

- Laid out multiple soccer fields for practice and games, including high school soccer fields.
- Sprayed pre-emergent on fields and common areas to control weed growth.
- Restriped parking lot at soccer fields to improve organization and safety.

Routine Maintenance:

- Performed routine maintenance around parks, including trash collection, tree trimming, and weed eating.
- Conducted routine maintenance on fleet trucks and mowers to ensure optimal performance.
- Installed new blades on mowers for improved cutting efficiency.
- Ensured trails were clear of debris and safe for public use.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE:

CalhounRec.com

Page Views – 8,309

New Users – 3,422

Sessions – 4,478

Posts – 5

FACEBOOK

Views – 86,480

Post Engagements – 13,064

Posts – 41

New Page Followers – 7,225

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

Downtown Businesses

The Pink Label opened its doors on February 28 with a stellar opening day and strong sales. The community showed up in large numbers to support the opening. We are excited to see continued progress on this corner and the addition of another business to what we often refer to as “retail row.”

Delicioso Bakery officially opened in February following a quiet soft opening in January. They have quickly jumped into downtown events, participating in our

Love Local Social and planning to take part in upcoming events such as Hop & Shop and BBQ & Boogie. They report strong and consistent business while refining their baking schedule and product offerings. They plan to incorporate fresh bread into their offerings by the end of the summer.

Downtown Events

Love Local Social was a fun event that brought friends, couples, and families downtown and created a lively atmosphere. Many retailers reported higher foot traffic throughout the day. One takeaway from the event was the opportunity to better connect attendee perks (such as the flower bar, sweet treat bar, and friendship bracelet bar) with direct retail sales.

Our next micro-event, Hop & Shop, is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 from 10 am to 4 pm. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos from 10 am to 1 pm. During the event, participants can complete a Hop & Shop Passport by collecting three stamps from downtown businesses (one stamp per purchase). Completed passports will be entered into a drawing for one of three gift baskets. This initiative will help us test strategies to increase retail sales alongside increased foot traffic.

We also held a meeting with our 2025 Downtown Calhoun Farmers Market vendors to help shape guidelines and procedures for the 2026 season. This year, a small vendor fee will be implemented. During the meeting we provided transparency about the costs associated with the successful 2025 season and gathered vendor feedback prior to opening the application to the public. The market also has a new website: downtowncalhounfarmersmarket.com.

The 2026 season will begin earlier this year, opening on Saturday, May 23. The market will run every Tuesday and Saturday from May 23 through September 19 from 8 am to 12 pm at City Park. We are currently conducting a community survey about the market, which can also be found on the new website.

Downtown Beautification

Staff is currently working on several beautification initiatives, including refreshing downtown planters, preparing seasonal spring plantings, and developing a project to improve both the functionality and appearance of the dumpster corrals in the downtown parking lot.

7. Zoning Hearings and Comments

8. Other Hearings and Comments

9. Old Business

10. New Business

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a zoning change request from R-2 to C-2 for 1.07 acres, at a location of 0 Harmony Church Road/Red Bud Road, being parcel

C55B-0067B, by Pragat Krupa, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held April 9 and the public hearing April 13.

B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from county A-1 to C-2 for a combined acreage of 4.04 acres, at a location of 317 and 329 Richardson Road, being parcels 058-036 and 058-037, b Puma Purushottam, LLC and Shree Mehant, LLC/Terry Patel. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held April 9 and the public hearing April 13.

C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer and wine pouring request, at a location of 123 Columbus Circle, NE, by Melissa Bushong D/B/A Jacket Snack Shack. The public hearing will be held April 13.

D. Mayor Palmer read an alcohol manager change request at a location of 1145 North Wall Street by Friends of Calhoun's GEM Theatre. The prior manager was Jonathan Gaines and the proposed manager is James Asbury. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the alcohol manager change. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

E. Mayor Palmer read a special event request from the Downtown Development Authority for a Shop and Hop Micro-event, for a special event zone in the area of Hicks Street to Harlan Street; Park Avenue to Wall Street and the section of Hwy 41 from Hicks Street to Harlan Street, and will include Cassie's on Wall Street, El Cubano, Trackside Pizza, Heavale Brewing, Doro's, El Pueblito, and Calhoun Coffee Company, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on March 28, 2026. No road closures are requested. Councilmember Potts made a motion to approve the special event request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

11. Other Written Items Not on the Agenda

12. Work Reports

A. Paul Worley, City Administrator, had nothing to report.

B. Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator had nothing to report.

13. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

14. Motion to return to General Session

15. Motion to Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Potts gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

