



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 8, 2023 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilman
Al Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem
Ed Moyer, Councilman

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Nathan Saylor, Division Chief of Training, Fire; Major Ken Carson; Margaret Boyd, Director of Purchasing; and Brett Sane, Operations Manager, Electric.

1. Council Meeting Called to Order

Welcome

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

Invocation

Mayor Palmer 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

Mayor Palmer stated that the agenda needed to be amended to add the first reading of an ordinance to add amendments to the zoning code to include zoning procedure law amendments related to HB 1405. Councilmember Moyer made a motion to approve the May 8, 2023 agenda as amended. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

4. Amendment or Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of April 24, 2023. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer stated that the first public hearing of the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 Annual Operating Budget and Capital Plan will be held tonight and the second public hearing on June 12th, at 7:00 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed by the public at www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com.
- B. Mayor Palmer stated that City of Calhoun offices will be closed Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

6. **Council Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer submitted the April reports as follows due to Mrs. Palazzolo being sick and unable to attend:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 332,840,000
- Daily average: 11,094,667
- Wells: 127,270,000
- Big Springs: 0
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 37.1%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 34.82%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 43.66%
 - Rainfall for April – 4.60”

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 8.173 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 4, average suspended effluent of 10, and an average COD of 41.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 155 work orders completed, 22 new water connections, 16 water service leaks repaired, 15 water main leaks repaired, 0 water services changed to new main lines, 27 meter changes, 32 utility locates called in for work orders, 573 utility locates responses.
- 2,850 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 473 utility locates completed, 4,250 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 21 new sewer connections installed, 2 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

Projects Under Construction

- Piedmont Street Water Line Replacement Project- This project includes replacing the water main on Piedmont St. behind the courthouse before road resurfacing is performed later this year. The majority of materials have come in, with the remainder on order. Most of the saw cuts have been completed.
- HD Fiber Sewer Extension – This project includes a 1,050’ extension of 8” gravity sewer to serve HD Fiber located on McDaniel Station Rd near the

Police Dept. The project should have a quick turnaround for the construction duration.

Projects in Design & Development

- Union Grove North & South Sewer Extension
- Water Tank Inspection & Evaluation Project
- Redbud Road & Wall Street Water & Sewer Relocation Project
- SR 225 @ Coosawattee Bridge Water Relocation
- Peters St. Phase III Water Relocation
- Curtis Pkwy Water & Sewer Relocation

3) **Library**

- There are 11,548 library card holders, 0 library visitors, and 106 total circulation.
- There were 0 story time attendance, 0 adult program attendance, 5 new users, 982 e-books, 825 audio books, 0 computer logins, and 12,142 Facebook visits.

B. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards submitted April reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 279 cases with 2 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$37,707
- Issued 428 warnings
- Investigated 48 highway accidents, 29 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 9
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 6
- Alarm responses - 138
- Miles patrolled: 42,700

2) **Municipal Court**

- Total Court cases- 232
- Court cases dropped- 17
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 111
- Number of Probation cases- 15
- Failure to appear- 18
- Subpoenas served-5

3) **Fire Department**

Fire Suppression Division

202 Total Reported Calls for Service for the Suppression Division

<i>Type of Dispatched Calls</i>	<i>Number of Dispatched Calls</i>
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------

<i>Structure Fires</i>	0
<i>Mobile Property Fire (Vehicle)</i>	1
<i>Natural Vegetation</i>	3
<i>Outside Rubbish Fires</i>	2
<i>Excessive Heat, Scorch Burns - No Ignition</i>	1
Total Fire Calls	7

<i>Rescue Emergency Medical Call (Other)</i>	1
<i>Medical Assist</i>	45
<i>Emergency Medical Service</i>	76
<i>Lock-In</i>	0
<i>Search for Lost Person</i>	0
<i>Water or Ice Related Rescue</i>	1
<i>Rescue / Extrication</i>	0
<i>Rescue or EMS Standby</i>	0
Total Medical Calls	123

<i>Flammable Gas or Liquid Condition Other</i>	0
<i>Combustible/Flammable Liquids Spills</i>	3
<i>Chemical Release, Reaction, or Toxic Condition</i>	0
<i>Electrical Wiring / Equipment Problems</i>	2
Total Hazardous Conditions Incidents (No Fire)	5

<i>Accident / Potential Accident</i>	0
<i>Service Call</i>	0
<i>Water Problem</i>	0

<i>Person In Distress</i>	2
<i>Smoke / Odor Problem</i>	1
<i>Public Service Assistance</i>	10
<i>Good Intent Call</i>	3
<i>Unauthorized Burning</i>	0
<i>Total Service / Good Intent Calls</i>	16

<i>Dispatched and Canceled En-Route</i>	23
<i>Wrong Location or No Emergency Found</i>	8
<i>Controlled Burning</i>	0
<i>Steam or Gas Mistaken for Smoke</i>	0
<i>False Alarm and False Call Other</i>	2
<i>Bomb Scare (Nothing Found)</i>	0
<i>Malicious or Mischievous False Alarm</i>	0
<i>System or Detector Malfunction</i>	5
<i>Unintentional System / Detector Operation (No Fire)</i>	4
<i>Total False Alarms of False Calls</i>	42

<i>Severe Weather and Natural Disaster</i>	1
<i>Total Severe Weather and Natural Disaster Calls</i>	1

<i>Special Incident Type (Citizen Complaint; Other)</i>	0
<i>Total Special Incident Type</i>	0

Monthly Fire Suppression Activities and Accomplishments

- Engineer Brett Silvers and Engineer Jesse Mills were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

- Lieutenant Billy Green was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief
- Nathan Saylor was hired as the Division Chief of Training
- Firefighter Brian Holt, Firefighter Robert Oglesby, Firefighter Marcus Pratt, Firefighter Heath Duke, Firefighter Cody Benton, Firefighter Scott Fox, Firefighter Chad Castoe, and Firefighter Mike Chavez were promoted to the rank of Engineer.
- Engineer Mike Chavez and Firefighter Malik Lawrence successfully achieved their NPQ Firefighter II certifications.
- Completed new hire CPAT testing for open firefighter positions and hired 5 new firefighter candidates.
- Had the GSAR truck and Fire Engine with C Shift and Training personnel at the Touch of Calhoun event at the Recreation Department.

Fire Inspection – Public Safety Education – Code Enforcement Division

40 Total Inspections and Enforcement Activities

<i>Annual Inspections</i>	6
<i>New Business Inspections</i>	4
<i>Requested Inspections</i>	20
<i>Follow Up, Re-Inspections</i>	0
<i>Burn Site Inspections</i>	0
<i>Plan Review</i>	4
<i>Pre-Construction Meeting</i>	0
<i>Sprinkler Permit Issued</i>	0
<i>Fuel Tank Permit (Install, Removal, or Service)</i>	0
<i>Consultations</i>	5
<i>Illegal Burning Citations</i>	0
<i>Fire Extinguisher Classes</i>	0
<i>Fire Drills</i>	0
<i>Fire Prevention Programs</i>	0
<i>Zoning / Annexation Meetings</i>	1
Total Inspection – Public Safety Education – Code Enforcement Activities	40

Monthly Fire Inspections – Public Safety Education – Code Enforcement Division Activities and Accomplishments

- April 13, 2023 – Inspections attended Driver Simulator class.
- April 20, 2023 - Duvall attended LEPC Meeting.
- April 24, 2023 - Inspections attended Fire Cause Determination class.
- April 28 – 29, 2023 – Duvall worked BBQ Boogie and Blues giving out Fire Safety information.

Training and Special Operations Division

Department Monthly Training Hours

<i>Company Training</i>	961.00
<i>Facility Training</i>	39.00
<i>Officer Training</i>	30.00
<i>Driver Training</i>	25.00
<i>Specialized Rescue Training</i>	00.00
<i>Hazardous Materials Training</i>	72.00
<i>Medical Training</i>	00.00
<i>Fire Inspector Training</i>	00.00
<i>Fire Investigation Training</i>	64.00
<i>Fire and Life Safety Educator Training</i>	00.00
<i>Daily Activities</i>	00.00
<i>Total Monthly Training Hours</i>	1191.00

2023 Total Annual Training Hours

<i>Company Training</i>	2337.00
<i>Facility Training</i>	453.00
<i>Officer Training</i>	68.00
<i>Driver Training</i>	33.00

<i>Specialized Rescue Training</i>	61.00
<i>Hazardous Materials Training</i>	248.00
<i>Medical Training</i>	00.00
<i>Fire Inspector Training</i>	00.00
<i>Fire Investigation Training</i>	66.00
<i>Fire and Life Safety Educator Training</i>	00.00
<i>Daily Activities</i>	221.00
Total 2023 Annual Training Hours	3266.00

Monthly Training and Special Operations Team Accomplishments

- April 4th, 2023 – Engineer Oglesby, Engineer Pratt, and Engineer Holt successfully completed Leadership in Supervision 1: Creating Environments for Professional Growth.
- April 6th, 2023 – Engineer Oglesby, Engineer Pratt, and Engineer Holt successfully completed Leadership in Supervision 2: Perspectives in Thinking.
- April 11th, 2023 – Engineer Oglesby, Engineer Pratt, and Engineer Holst successfully completed Leadership in Supervision 3: Frameworks to Success.
- April 14th, 2023 – Division Chief Saylor attended the Spring Emergency Management Conference.
- April 18th, 2023 – Hosted MyPi 4H Cert Program
- April 22nd, 2023 – GSAR Rig was shown at Calhoun Recreation’s Touch a Truck Event
- April 26th, 2023 – All shift personnel attended GPSTC Pipeline Emergencies for Command Officer Strategies over a three-day period.
- April 26th, 2023 – Fire Marshal Duvall, Fire Inspector McMahan, and Lieutenant Mills successfully completed Fire Origin and Cause Determination for Initial Company Operations.
- April 27th, 2023 – Hosted NPQ FFI Exam for Carroll County Fire Rescue
- April 28th, 2023 – Proctored NPQ FFI Exam for Murray County Fire Department
- April 28th, 2023 – Chief Nesbitt and Deputy Chief Mills attended the IAAI Fire Investigation Conference.
- April 29th, 2023 – Assisted with medical response and public relations at Downtown BBQ, Boogies, and Blues Event.

Upcoming Important Training and Special Operations Activities

- May 1st, 2023 – Fire Department Management Course
- May 2nd, 2023 – CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) Program Course
- May 3rd, 2023 – Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Programs
- May 5th, 2023 – After Action Report Development
- May 8th, 2023 – Pipeline Emergencies: Air Monitoring

- May 9th, 2023 – EMS Quality Review Committee Meeting
- May 10th, 2023 – Paradigm Gas Training
- May 12th, 2023 – GPSTC (Georgia Public Safety Training Center) Meeting about CFD Training Center Approval for Regional Training site
- May 15th, 2023 – Hazardous Materials Contingency Planning
- May 19th, 2023 – NPQ (National Professional Qualifications) Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations Exam
- May 23, 2023 – CERT Program Disaster Scenario
- May 26th, 2023 – GSP SWAT Rappel Training

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: 1
 - Workers' compensation: 0

C. Councilman Denmon submitted April reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

- Completed 26 shop and 25 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 6 new street signs.
- Repaved roads including Edwards Avenue, Louise Avenue, Richards Street, Cherry Street, Florence Street, Dan Cherry Drive, Meadow Lane, Garden Hill Drive, Stone Haven Drive, Hunts Drive, Dorsey Street, Jackson Street, Burnette Street, Roberts Street and Buena Vista Drive using a total 3543.5 tons of asphalt.

Cemetery

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 6 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.
- Trimmed tree limbs on sidewalks downtown.

Animal Control

- Housed 8 dogs and 7 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 0
- Number of cats adopted: 1
- Number of dogs rescued: 5
- Number of cats rescued: 5
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 2

- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 20
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issues: 1

2) **Recreation Department**

PROGRAMS:

Youth Soccer – Spring soccer played 106 games through the month of April. Games will continue through mid-May.

Youth Baseball and Softball – The spring games began on April 10 with 63 games played during the month. Games will continue through the end of May.

Camp South River – Summer Camp – registration has begun for Camp South River which will be held 7 weeks throughout the summer. The first week of camp will be June 5 – 9, 2023.

Blue Barracudas – Summer Swim team registration has started and the Barracudas will begin practice the week of May 22.

Tennis –

Tennis 101/Quads – 10 courts on Tuesdays

EVTA Men’s/Women’s league – weekly

Combo 18 & over; 40 and over leagues – 75 participants

Tuesday/Thursday Morning Drills – 20 participants

Adult Fitness Classes: Classes were held Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. There were 25 participants throughout the month.

Studio 4 Dance Classes – Classes were held Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. There were 10 participants throughout the month.

TOUCH OF CALHOUN - April 22 – The touch of Calhoun had great participation with several hundred families coming out to enjoy the day. Trucks/Equipment were on display from Calhoun Fire Dept., Calhoun Police Dept., Calhoun Electric Dept., Calhoun Street Dept., Gordon County Fire, Gordon County EMS, Mauldin Trash, Parrish Towing, Discount Towing, and Nicholson Roll-offs all participated.

Power Wheel Derby -There were 22 participants that came out to race their power-wheels in the Derby.

Grounds Maintenance –

The following tasks were completed during the month:

Repainted all soccer fields

Daily field maintenance and game set up for baseball/softball games
Repainted high school soccer field
Groom tennis center weekly
Painted Bernstein park
Mowed and maintained all green space; ball fields; entrances
Groomed dog park weekly
Set up and painted football field for North Ga Cardinals Football games
Pool maintenance preparing to open for the season

WEBSITE USAGE

CalhounRec	FACEBOOK
Page Views – 5,629	Post Engagements – 4,802
Users – 3,765	Reached – 24,646
Posts – 37	Posts – 23

FACILITY USAGE

Ratner Pavilion 8 rentals	Playground Pavilion -16 rentals
Community Room – 9 rentals	Meeting Room – 2 rentals

STAFF CONTINUING EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Leadership Calhoun-Gordon Co – Laura Carter attend sessions throughout the month
GRPA Leadership I – Hailey Amick attend GRPA Leadership I at Rock Eagle – April 22-24.
BBQ Boogie and Blues – 3 staff members worked vendor check-in on 4/28; 10 staff members worked the People’s Choice Competition on 4/29

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

The DDA held their regularly scheduled meeting. The HPC is looking for a new member for a vacant spot on the board and are preparing to submit the nomination for Preserve America. The DDA hosted the 11th Annual BBQ, Boogie & Blues. It was the largest one to date. The Harris Arts Center, Calhoun/Gordon County Library and DDA are working on a project for the caboose. The HAC and DDA “Beats in the Streets” Summer Concert Series dates are June 16th, July 21st & September 21st. The DDA is getting ready to start the Court Street improvements. Outer Elements will be starting the project on Monday, May 9th. The DDA will be installing sidewalk cafes at the historic downtown restaurants once the improvements are done. Free Wi-Fi was installed in the City of Calhoun Park. It will be available to the public soon.

Visits

April 4- Cheyenne’s
April 7- KASE- Kim
April 11- Pink Label
April 13- Calhoun Coffee Co.
April- 14- When I Was A Child
April- 18 – Pete’s Music City

April 19- Doro's- Miguel
 April 24-29 – BBQ, Boogie & Blues

Social Media

April 4th, 6th, 10th, 12th, 13th 14th,17th, 18th 19th 20th – BBQ Sponsor
 April 12 – HAC Cruise Night
 April 13th- Daily Refresh BBQ Interview April 14th- Downtown Merchant Sale
 April 15th- DWTS
 April 17th- BBQ
 April 21st- Downtown Merchant Sale
 April 24th- BBQ Line Up
 April 26th- Doro's April 28th & 29th - BBQ

D. Councilman Moyer submitted April reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Current Electrical Department Engineering and Construction:

- The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.
- Electrical Engineering continues for the new Mavis Tire and Brakes, I-75 crossing for Home to Suites Hotel, Mattress Firm, and Lincoln Properties on Belwood Rd.
- Construction continues on the 53 Townhomes at Old Mill, H.D. Fibers, Home to Suites Hotel on Lovers Lane. The Electric Dept is continuing system upgrades necessary for the new growth and increased reliability.

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED FOR APRIL:

• NEWLY CREATED	55
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	61
•	
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	14
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	1
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	10
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	3
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	0
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	17
• NEW METER SETS	3
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	13
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	282

Construction continues and materials are being ordered for the Exchange Apartments, Manor Lake Cottages of Calhoun on Curtis Parkway, Seefried Ind, and Michael's Carpet. Annual pole inspections of 500 poles resulted in 13 reject poles, less than 3% of what was tested.

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for April 2023 is about 27 million kilowatt hours (kWh's). This is about three million kWh's less than April of 2022.

2) Telecommunications

- Finished fiber and setup one new internet customer and started fiber construction for another new customer.
- Completed fiber build to Mauldin Road Soccer Fields for Wi-Fi project.
- Repaired two customer fiber drops.
- Lightning took out data room AC unit at the new Police Department.
- Performed seven pole transfers.
- Installed five new computers to replace obsolete devices and replace two printers.
- Continued to test Employee Self Service options and resolved payroll time entry issue.
- Updated server hosting system and 14 server's tools programs.
- Implemented new E-mail spam filtering service. New service tests web links and examines attachment's behavior by opening them a safe environment prior to delivering to email boxes.
- Filed quarterly revenue reports with the FCC and Georgia PSC.
- Opened 12 and closed 15 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Davie and Micky attended a two day ESRI Southeast Users Conference in Atlanta.
- Continue working new Lead and Copper water line project.
- Worked with Engineering Department on water modeling session.
- Printed utility maps for proposed developments from developers.
- Updated the GIS system software
- Updated data and mapping for the following:
 - Water system
 - Cemetery
 - Fiber
 - Zoning
- Updated Physical addressing, building and billing information.
- Updated City and GIS web sites

3) Building Inspections

- Issued 54 permits for an estimated cost of \$564,297, collected \$13,459 in permit fees. This included 10 new residential, 0 residential remodel, 0 new commercial, 1 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 1 industrial remodel, 4 residential plumbing, 15 residential electrical, 7 residential HVAC, 1 commercial plumbing, 7 commercial electrical, 0 commercial HVAC, 2 industrial plumbing, and 2 industrial electrical. 162 total inspections.

7. Zoning Hearings 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. Stream Buffer Variance – Rachael Dickinson - Mavis Tire C57-031

Public hearing of a stream buffer variance request for complete encroachment of the building and impervious area into the 50-foot buffer for 204 linear feet and into the 75-foot buffer for 176 linear feet, for .81 acre at a location of 510 Hwy 53 (C57-31), by Rachael Dickinson on behalf of Mavis Tire. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held May 4th.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the board recommended approval of the variance request. The EPD has already approved of the needed variance from the State.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments beginning with the applicant.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the variance request. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Annexation – John and Harriet Hiram 002-043

Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from County R-3 to R-2 for 0.46 acre at a located on Yarbrough Street (parcel# 002-043), by John and Harriet Hiram. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held May 4th.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the board recommended approval of the annexation and zoning request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments beginning with the applicant.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the annexation request. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request of R-2. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. Other Public Hearings and Comments:

A. Beer and Wine Package – Jai Mahavdev 4, Inc.

Public hearing of a beer and wine package license request at a location of 235 West Line Street, Suite 3, by Jai Mahavdev 4, Inc. (Arpit V. Patel).

- 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 comments beginning with the applicant.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the alcohol request. Councilmember Moyer made a motion to approve the beer and wine package license. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. **1st Public Hearing – FY24 Operating Budget and Capital Plan**

First public hearing of the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 Annual Operating Budget and Capital Plan. Eligible for adoption June 19th.

- 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 gave the floor to City Administrator Worley for an overview of the FY24 Budget stating that a more detailed presentation would be given at the second public hearing on June 12th.

Budget Totals Overview

- General Fund: \$19,657,456 – 2.3% increase over current year
- Recreation Fund: \$1,771,891 – in line with last year
- Golf Fund: \$1,017,772 – in line with last year
- Solid Waste Fund: \$1,004,881 – in line with last year

Budget Totals Overview

- Water-Sewer Fund: \$27,789,547 – this fund is project driven
- Electric Fund: \$46,218,157 – 13% increase – This is a volatility energy market driven by wholesale power cost.
- Telecommunications Fund: \$1,634,050 – in line with last year
- Utility Internal Service Fund: \$4,023,732 – in line with last year

Major Budget Themes

- No millage rate increase projected at this time, 13% increase in LOST, slight decrease in utility transfers and TAVT, and keeping H/M level
- Planning for community growth
- Addition of new employee positions:
 - 2 police
 - 4 fire, which will allow for 14 employees per shift. The department has had 12 per shift since 2000.
 - 2 street, which will help bring up the count in this department, which is currently smaller than it was in the mid 2000's

- 1 part-time employee for the DDA
- 1 cyber security/networking employee
- United Healthcare insurance change-12.5% reduction last year, 18% increase this year, which totals a 5.5% increase over the two-year period. The City has had an unfavorable claim history over the past few months leading up to the renewal.
- COLA still under evaluation – waiting for report from consultants Evergreen Solutions and should have something prior to the next public hearing.
- 3.5% water/wastewater increase – due to inflation and chemical costs, and PFAS mitigation requirements.
- 2018 SPLOST- design work on rec gym, equipment, sidewalks, paving

Major Economic Themes

- Shifting from rising inflation rates, to “sticky” inflation levels – federal government raising interest rates to try and meet their goal of 2% inflation
- Wage inflation - current bank prime rate is 8.25%, up from 3.5% a year ago.
- Continued record low unemployment
- Looming recession?

All in all, we are performing strong on the local level.

- There were no other comments and Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and announced that the second public hearing will be held June 12th and the public the adoption of the budget on June 19th.

9. **Old Business:**

A. **Beer, Wine and Distilled Spirits Pouring – Calhoun Coffee Company**

Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of a beer, wine and distilled spirits pouring license request at a location of 117 Wall Street, by Jonathan Bennett dba Calhoun Coffee Company. The public hearing will be held May 22nd.

B. **Beer and Wine Package – Jai Mahadev, Inc, dba Royal Express**

Second reading of a beer and wine package license request at a location of 609 South Wall Street, by Jai Mahadev, Inc. (Arpit V. Patel) dba Royal Express. The public hearing will be held May 22nd.

C. **Resolution – Joint Comprehensive Plan**

Mayor Palmer read a resolution adopting the Gordon County Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for the City of Calhoun for the years 2023 through 2027. The final public hearing was held March 30th at 4:00 p.m. at the Gordon County Judicial Building. City Administrator Worley thanked city staff, the steering and stake holder committees and Julianne Meadows of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission for their hard work on the updated plan. He also noted that this is the five-year update of the 10-year plan. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to authorize Mayor Palmer to sign the resolution. Councilmember Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

10. **New Business:**

A. **Stream Variance – Jason Everts for Ashton Furniture Company**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a stream variance request of 15 feet, to vary from the 50-foot undisturbed stream buffer to a 35-foot undisturbed stream buffer, by Jason Everts on behalf of Ashton Furniture Company. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on June 8th and the public hearing on June 12th.

B. **Annexation and Zoning – KLR Properties of Georgia, LLC – 066-040**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of annexation and zoning request from County A-1 to R-1B for 0.69 acre, at a location of 211 Kentucky Drive, by KLR Properties of Georgia LLC (066-040). The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on June 8th and the public hearing on June 12th.

C. **Variance Request – Michaels Carpet, Inc. – C58-061**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of two variance requests at a location of 880 Union Grove Road (C58-061), by Michael's Carpet, Inc. The first variance request is to allow for a 198 square foot variance to the sign area, from 180 square feet to 378 square feet. The second variance is for an electronic sign to be allowed to be used as the primary sign for the facade. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on June 8th and the public hearing on June 12th.

D. **Zoning Change – Arpit Patel – C43-094**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a zoning change request from R-1 to C-2 for 1.21 acres at a location of 1309 Hwy 41, by Arpit V. Patel (C43-094). The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on June 8th and the public hearing on June 12th.

E. **Taxicab License – Taxi Latino**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a Taxicab and Limousine Operator Regulatory License Application for Taxi Latino, at a location of 200 Powell Street, by Romualdo Rojo-Martinez. The public hearing will be on June 12th.

F. **FY 24 District 1 Officers**

Mayor Palmer stated that a motion was needed to approve or deny GMA's slate of District 1 Officers for FY 2023-2024. Councilmember Moyer made a motion to approve the Officers. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

G. **GMA Voting Delegate Designation**

Mayor Palmer stated a motion was needed to designate a voting delegate representing the City of Calhoun for the annual GMA membership business meeting. The meeting will be held on Sunday, June 25th at the annual GMA Convention in Savannah. Councilmember Moyer made a motion to nominate Councilmember Palazzolo as the voting delegate. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

H. **Ordinance – Zoning Code Procedures – HB 1405**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an ordinance to add amendments to the zoning code to include zoning procedure law amendments related to HB 1405. Eligible for a public hearing June 12th. City Attorney Govignon stated the new Zoning Procedure law, effective for local governments July 1, 2023 streamlines the process and mainly affects R-1 zoned areas requesting zoning changes.

11. **Other written items not on the agenda:**

12. Work Reports:

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator stated that the City of Calhoun is proud to announce that free public Wi-Fi access is now available at the Downtown Calhoun City Park, Calhoun Recreation Department’s tennis facility, swimming pool, football field, the new baseball/softball complex, the yellow playground, and the Mauldin Road soccer complex. The Wi-Fi network name is CalhounWiFi and the password is Hometown. Some devices may initially prompt a log in page, but no personal information or account setup will be required for login. Instructional signs will be posted this week in the areas with public Wi-Fi access. We will also have information on the City’s website at www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com with an email address for user feedback at wificomments@calnet-ga.net. We would like to thank Brad Carrick and the staff at Calnet for making this opportunity possible. The equipment was purchased utilizing the Federal Government’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to help implement the goal of additional broadband deployment for the public. Additional locations are under review and consideration, so stay tuned!

- B. Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator, stated that he would like to recommend the appointment of Brett Sane to the position of Director of Electric Utilities for Calhoun Utilities. Brett joined the city of Calhoun’s electric department in 2005. He has worked his way up from an apprentice lineman to his current position of operations manager. Having worked in every position within our electric organization, he is extremely knowledgeable of our system and processes. Brett has many attributes that qualify him for this position, but none more important than his commitment to his community. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards made a motion to appoint Brett Sane as the new Director of Electrical Utilities. Councilmember Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- C. George Govignon, City Attorney, 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, Councilmember Moyer made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Approved:

Submitted:


James F. Palmer, Mayor


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk



**A RESOLUTION
TO ADOPT THE**

**Gordon County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2023-2027
Including the Municipalities of Calhoun, Fairmount, Plainville, Ranger, and Resaca**

Whereas, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires local governments to develop and maintain a comprehensive plan to retain their Qualified Local Government status and eligibility for State permits, grants, and loans; and

Whereas, the *Gordon County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2023-2027 Including the Municipalities of Calhoun, Fairmount, Plainville, Ranger, and Resaca* is now complete; and

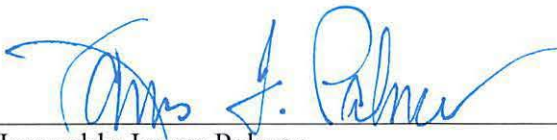
Whereas, such **Joint Comprehensive Plan Update** is approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs as meeting Georgia's Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures (effective October 1, 2018); and

Whereas, the second and final public hearing on the draft plan was held on March 30, 2023, at 4:00 pm at the Gordon County Judicial Building in Calhoun, Georgia;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun hereby officially adopt the *Gordon County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2023-2027 Including the Municipalities of Calhoun, Fairmount, Plainville, Ranger, and Resaca*.


Resolved, this 8th day of May, 2023.

BY:



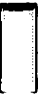
Honorable James Palmer
Mayor, City of Calhoun

ATTEST:



Sharon Nelson, City Clerk
City of Calhoun





Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, located in the center of the page.

