

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
JANUARY 10, 2000**

MINUTES

**PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ronald H. Woods, Councilman
John D. Shelton, Jr., Councilman
Ray M. Denmon, Councilman
Lorene Potts, Councilwoman**

**ALSO: William P. Bailey, City Attorney
Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities and Public Works
Cathy Harrison, City Administrator**

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance to the first meeting of the year 2000.
 - a. City Chaplain, Dr. Bert Vaughn gave the Invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. James F. Palmer was sworn in as Mayor of the City of Calhoun by the City Administrator / Clerk Harrison.
4. Mayor Palmer swore in Ronald H. Woods as City Councilman, Post 1.
5. Mayor Palmer swore in Lorene Potts as City Councilwoman, Post 2.
6. Mayor Palmer swore in Al Edwards for the Calhoun Board of Education, Post 4 and George Crowley for the Calhoun Board of Education, Post 5. Mayor Palmer expressed appreciation to School Board members who serve without pay and who plan for our greatest assets, our children.
7. Mayor Palmer gave his State of the City address, as per the attached.
8. Minutes of the December 20, 1999 regular City Council meeting were approved as written.
9. Mayor Palmer appointed the following City Council Members to departments for reporting purposes for the year 2000:
 - a. Councilman Woods: Electric Department, Telecommunications, Revolving Loan Advisory Commission
 - b. Councilman Shelton: Police, Fire, Liaison with Coosa Valley RDC
 - c. Councilman Denmon: Water Plant, Sewer Plant, Water & Sewer Construction Department, Building Inspection
 - d. Councilwoman Potts: Street, Sanitation, Cemetery, Animal Control, Parks, Golf Advisory Commission, Zoning Advisory Board
10. Mayor Palmer asked for a motion to appoint the Mayor Pro Tem for the year 2000. Councilman Shelton made a motion to appoint Ronald H. Woods as Mayor Pro Tem, second by Councilman Denmon, with Councilman Shelton, Councilman Denmon and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
11. Mayor Palmer recommended the following staff and department heads for the year 2000:
 - a. City Administrator/Clerk/Finance DirectorCathy Harrison
 - b. Director of Utilities & Public WorksKelly Cornwell
 - c. Assistant Dir. Of Utilities & Public WorksEddie Peterson
 - d. Police Chief.....Willie Mitchell
 - e. Fire ChiefLenny Nesbitt
 - f. Street Department SuperintendentKevin McEntire
 - g. Water Plant SuperintendentEstes Pass
 - h. Sewer Plant SuperintendentCarlton Rogers
 - i. Water & Sewer Const. Dept. SuperintendentDan Shuler
 - j. Superintendent in training of Water & Sewer Const.Jerry Crawford
 - k. Technical Engineer for Water & Sewer Const.....Mark Williamson
 - l. Electric Superintendent.....Larry Vickery
 - m. Golf ProfessionalRobby Cole
 - n. Golf Maintenance SuperintendentHarold Franklin

Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to approve the appointment of staff and department heads as per those recommended by Mayor Palmer. The motion was seconded by Councilman Shelton, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Denmon and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

12. Mayor Palmer recommended the reappointment of Dr. Bert Vaughn as City Chaplain for the year 2000. Mayor Palmer stated that Dr. Vaughn has served in this capacity since 1986. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to reappoint Dr. Bert Vaughn as City Chaplain, second by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
13. Mayor Palmer recommended the reappointment of William P. Bailey as City Attorney for the year 2000. Councilman Denmon made a motion to reappoint William P. Bailey as City Attorney, second by Mayor Pro Tem Woods, with Councilman Denmon, Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
14. Mayor Palmer recommended the reappointment of Suzanne Hutchinson to serve as the Municipal Court Judge for the year 2000. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to reappoint Suzanne Hutchinson to serve as the Municipal Court Judge, second by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
15. Mayor Palmer recommended the reappointment of R. M. Dobbs & Co. as external city auditor for the year 2000. Councilman Denmon made a motion to reappoint R. M. Dobbs & Co. as city auditor, second by Councilman Shelton, with Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton, Mayor Pro Tem Woods and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
16. Mayor Palmer read a proposed banking resolution regarding the investment of city funds and authorized signatures. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to adopt the resolution, second by Councilman Shelton, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Shelton, Councilman Denmon and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
17. Other comments by Mayor Palmer:
 - a. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council of the GMA Mayor's Day meeting in Atlanta on January 23 and 24.
 - b. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council and the general public that due to the GMA meeting, the January 24 Council Meeting has been changed to January 31, 2000 at 7:00 P.M.
 - c. Mayor Palmer reminded the public the City's *ad valorem* tax deadline has been extended to January 14, 2000 for payment of 1999 taxes.
18. Council Comments:
 - a. Mayor Pro Tem Woods stated:
 - 1) The Electric Department sold 25,474,503 kWh of electricity in December 1999, to a customer base of 4,058, and provided 44 inspections. The Electric Department construction projects on the Spring Valley Subdivision expansion continued, as well as preliminary engineering on the Newtown Road Project. The tree crew is continuing to work off of Curtis Parkway at the present time and Christmas decorations have been removed.
 - 2) Telecommunications crews continued the premise fiber optic services for Mohawk and Carriage Industries and have completed splicing for these services. MEAG and QWEST are nearing completion of the required access and parallel with this access, negotiations between MEAG and ISP Alliance, which should result in internet availability to Calhoun.
 - 3) The natural gas turbine warranty work continues, with completion scheduled in April.
 - b. Councilman Shelton reported:
 - 1) The Police Department made 262 in December 1999, with 12 being DUI's. They collected \$49,085.00 in fines, issued 65 warnings and 269 parking tickets, investigated 126 accidents with 35 injuries, responded to

153 burglar alarms and provided 72 escorts. For the full calendar year, they collected over \$445,000.00 in fines, made over 3,700 cases, issued over 4,400 parking tickets and investigated over 2,871 incidents.

- 2) During the month of December 1999, the Fire Department responded to 61 calls, with damages of approximately \$17,150.00. They responded to 24 calls with accidents. They provided 31 inspections during the month. They also provided training on records and writing reports. They provided classes for industrial customers on the proper use of fire extinguishers. They also provided training for hazardous materials for employees of the water and sewer plants. They assisted the United Way with their annual food drive.

c. Councilman Denmon stated:

- 1) The Water Treatment Plant pumped a daily average of 11.071 MGD per day, while well number three pumped a daily average of 1.368 MGD of raw water.
- 2) The Waste Treatment Plant treated a daily average of 7.311 MGD, with BOD effluent being 12, suspended effluent being 18 and COD effluent being 117.
- 3) The Water and Sewer Construction Department made 40 water taps and 5 sewer taps, they repaired 37 water leaks during the month of December.

d. Councilwoman Potts stated:

- 1) The Street Department ran their storm water maintenance plan on December 21, 1999. They worked at the Housing Authority, taking out and hauling off broken sidewalks and dumpster pads. They based, formed and poured new sidewalks and dumpster pads at these areas, using 63 yards of concrete. They picked up, set and returned 5 sections of bleachers used in front of the Courthouse for the parade of lights. They put up signage and mailboxes on Piedmont Street, built two storm water boxes and filled in with chert in front of the poured wall on Victory Drive. They cleaned ditches at American Rug Mill on North Industrial Boulevard, worked with the dozer at the pipe yard, clearing debris hauled in by all city departments. They ran the brush truck, street sweeper and leaf vacuum routes, in addition to hauling 52 loads of stone. The shop completed 34 work orders.
- 2) The Safety Committee selected its safety incentive winners for cash awards for remaining accident free during 1999. They were Rita Susong, \$500.00, Sherri Weaver, \$400.00, Bob Johnson, \$200.00 and Pete Reese, \$100.00.
- 3) The Animal Control Department housed 14 dogs and 8 cats, issued 6 warnings for leash law violations, responded to 53 customer inquiries and disposed of 5 deer.

19. Public Hearings.

- a. Mayor Palmer stated at this time, public hearings on zoning matters would be held. The public would have the opportunity to make pro and con comments with a ten-minute maximum time limit for each side of the matter. Each person speaking would be required to have filed a Financial Disclosure Statement five days prior to the hearing, and each person would be required to give their name and address before speaking. An inquiry was made to determine if any of the elected officials needed to file a disclosure statement regarding ownership or special interest in any of the agenda items. The response was negative.

- 1) Mayor Palmer gave a second reading to a new zoning of R-2 and annexation request of B&B, Inc. for 6.051 acres off Peters Street in Land Lot 267, 14th District, 3rd Section of Gordon County, Georgia. Mayor Palmer announced this matter was withdrawn by the applicants on January 7, 2000.
- 2) Mayor Palmer gave a second reading on a new zoning of Industrial-H and annexation request for 1.110 acres in the 14th District, 3rd Section, Land Lot 226 of Gordon County, being property owned by Coosa Valley Tech and being Southwest of the school. Also, 1.35 acres owned by the school, being in Land Lot 226 and also being southwest of the school.
 - a) Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
 - b) Harrison reported that notices had been sent to the adjoining property owners, notices had been published in the legal organ and signs had been posted on the property.


- c) Councilwoman Potts stated the Zoning Advisory Board heard the matter on January 6 and heard a report from the Zoning Review Committee, in which they reported the property at this time is not scheduled for any improvements, but the house located on one of the tracts is currently used for storage. The zoning of Industrial-H fits within the zoning of the immediate area and it can be utilized by the school with this type of zoning. The Zoning Advisory Board also heard that the request fits within the long-range plans of the City. Based upon this information, the Zoning Advisory Board recommended the new zoning of Industrial-H and annexation.
 - d) There were no comments by the applicant or by the general public and the public hearing was closed.
 - e) Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to zone the property industrial-H and to annex, second by Councilwoman Potts, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilwoman Potts, Councilman Shelton and Councilman Denmon voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- 3) Mayor Palmer gave a second reading of the request for zoning of C-2 and annexation of Hometowne Lodge, Inc. for approximately 4 acres off Golden Circle Drive. Mayor Palmer stated the applicant had requested the matter be returned to the Zoning Advisory Board for additional information to be brought before that body. Mayor Palmer stated that in accordance with Section 14.2.3(12) of the Zoning Ordinance, the Council could return the matter to the Zoning Advisory Board and could reschedule a public hearing on the matter for February 14, 2000. Mayor Palmer asked for a motion to reset the hearing for February. Councilman Denmon made a motion to reset the public hearing before the Mayor and Council for February 14, 2000 and to return the matter to the Zoning Advisory Board on February 10, 2000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Shelton, with Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton, Mayor Pro Tem Woods and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
- b. Other Hearings.
- 1) A second reading was given of the proposed Code of Ethics.
 - a) Mayor Palmer stated the proposed ordinance had been forwarded to all the members of the various committees appointed by the Mayor and Council and based upon a few recommendations by these members, with appropriate changes being made per their recommendations, the ordinance is ready to be reviewed in a public hearing.
 - b) A public hearing was opened.
 - c) There were no comments from the public.
 - d) The public hearing was closed.
 - e) Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to approve the ordinance adopting a written Code of Ethics for the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
20. Old Business: **none.**
21. New Business:
- a. Mayor Palmer gave a first reading of an amusement license renewal request for Martin Theater and North Georgia Amusements for the year 2000. He stated these applicants had failed to return their renewals prior to the first of the year. He stated a second reading and a vote on the matter could be held on January 31, 2000.
 - b. A first reading was given of a new zoning of R-1 and annexation request by Mattie Evelyn Bohannon Walker for a house on approximately 1 acre at 260 Meadowbrook Road. The earliest date for a public hearing is February 14, 2000 at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Palmer asked for a motion to set the public hearing. Councilman Denmon made a motion to set the public hearing for February 14 at 7:00 P.M., second by Councilman Shelton, with Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton, Mayor Pro Tem Woods and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

- c. A first reading was given of a new zoning of R-1 and annexation request by Henry B. and Lisa L. Brzozoski for a house and lot at 216 Three Oaks Drive. Councilman Denmon made a motion to set the public hearing for February 14, 2000 at 7:00 P.M., second by Councilman Shelton, with Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton, Mayor Pro Tem Woods and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
 - d. A first reading was given of a zoning variance request by Wilma Jean Erwin and John Wayne Hall for property at 200 Boling Industrial Way (Prestige Mills.) Mayor Palmer stated two buildings are be added to the existing building. This will require three setback variances for construction: a 7.5 foot variance on the first building, and 7.5 foot and 22.5 foot variances on the second building, in the cul-de-sac area. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to set the public hearing for February 14, 2000 at 7:00 P.M., second by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.
22. Other written items not on the agenda: **none.**
23. Work report of Director of Utilities and Public Works, Kelly Cornwell:
- a. Cornwell reported that Cash Road was $\frac{3}{4}$ complete at this time for relocating water lines, in order to facilitate the road improvements scheduled by Gordon County.
 - b. Director Cornwell stated the City is ready to relocate water and sewer utilities on the Belwood Road in order to be ready for reconstruction of Belwood Road by Gordon County.
 - c. Cornwell stated the City of Calhoun continues to work on filtration improvements for the well project.
 - d. Cornwell stated that on behalf of the department heads and staff, he wished to thank the Council for their leadership and for providing the equipment and materials needed in order for the crews to do their work properly.
24. Mayor Palmer inquired if there was a need to move to executive session. There was none.
25. Mayor Pro Tem Woods made a motion to adjourn, second by Councilman Denmon, with Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton and Councilwoman Potts voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Cathy Harrison, City Administrator

OATH OF OFFICE

"I, James F. Palmer, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly perform to the best of my abilities the duties of Mayor, by adopting and enforcing such measures as in my judgment shall be best calculated to promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of the City of Calhoun and the common interest thereof."

THIS, the 10th day of January 2000.


James F. Palmer



"I, Ronald H. Woods, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly perform to the best of my abilities the duties of City Councilman, Post 1, by adopting and enforcing such measures as in my judgment shall be best calculated to promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of the City of Calhoun and the common interest thereof."

THIS, the 10th day of January 2000.


Ronald H. Woods



"I, Lorene L. Potts, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly perform to the best of my abilities the duties of City Councilman, Post 2, by adopting and enforcing such measures as in my judgment shall be best calculated to promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of the City of Calhoun and the common interest thereof."

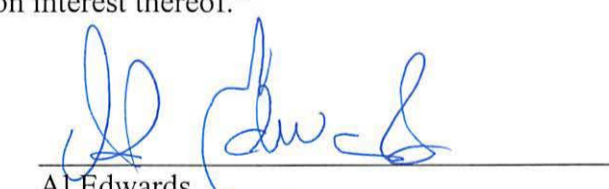
THIS, the 10th day of January 2000.


Lorene L. Potts



"I, Al Edwards, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly perform to the best of my abilities the duties of Calhoun Board of Education Member, Post 4, by adopting and enforcing such measures as in my judgment shall be best calculated to promote the educational needs of the inhabitants of the City of Calhoun and the common interest thereof."

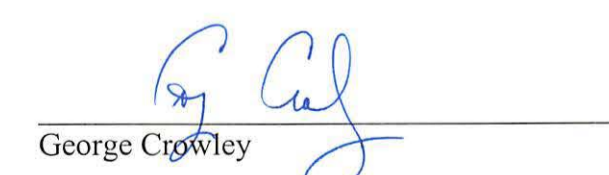
THIS, the 10th day of January 2000.


Al Edwards



"I, George Crowley, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly perform to the best of my abilities the duties of Calhoun Board of Education Member, Post 5, by adopting and enforcing such measures as in my judgment shall be best calculated to promote the educational needs of the inhabitants of the City of Calhoun and the common interest thereof."

THIS, the 10th day of January 2000.


George Crowley

**CITY OF CALHOUN
CALHOUN, GEORGIA**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Calhoun, Georgia designates AmSouth Bank, Calhoun First National Bank, Georgia Bank & Trust, North Georgia National Bank and Wachovia Bank as authorized City Depositories; and

WHEREAS, the City of Calhoun, Georgia has established an investment policy which utilizes local banks within defined guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the City of Calhoun, Georgia has varying amounts available for deposit and investment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Calhoun shall utilize the following funds, with employees and elected officials being authorized to sign checks, withdrawals, etc. (Two Signatures Required):

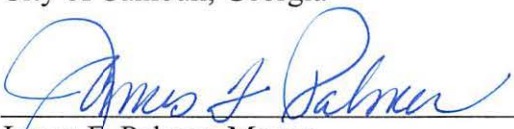
Pooled Funds Account, WPS Enterprise Funds, General Funds, Utility Deposits, Revenue Sinking Funds, Debt Service Funds, Special Project Funds, Golf Enterprise Funds – Signatures of two of the following: Cathy Harrison, Linda Brookshire, Kelly Cornwell, or James F. Palmer;

Payroll Funds – Signatures of two of the following: Cathy Harrison, Kelly Cornwell, or James F. Palmer;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Finance Officer, Cathy Harrison, shall be authorized to establish or have established new accounts or investments for the above mentioned funds or new funds created in accordance with the investment policy or at the direction of the Mayor and Council.

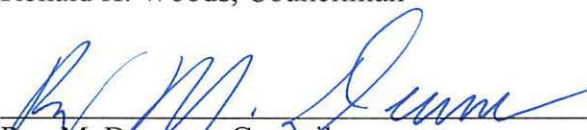
ADOPTED this the 10th day of January 2000.

City of Calhoun, Georgia


James F. Palmer, Mayor


John D. Shelton, Councilman


Ronald H. Woods, Councilman


Ray M. Denmon, Councilman


Lorene Potts, Councilwoman

Attest:


Cathy Harrison,
City Administrator/Clerk/Finance Officer

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
CALHOUN, GEORGIA**

January 10, 2000

By: Mayor James F. Palmer

I would like to begin by saying thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve. I consider it an honor and a privilege and I will do my best to make decisions that are in the best interest of the citizens of Calhoun.

I would like to thank my family for their help and support because without them, this would not be possible.

I would also like to thank the Council, staff, department heads and employees for their hard work, cooperation and dedication. The ability to work together and share ideas has resulted in a very successful 1999 as we closed out a century of progress for the City of Calhoun.

In 1990, we had a population of 7,135 and we expect the 2000 census to show over 11,000. That is an increase of 54%! I expect this rapid growth to continue and it will require constant planning to meet the increasing demands on all city services.

City staff, department heads and the coordinator should be commended for the many hours they spent insuring the City was Y2K compliant and ready for the new millennium.

City Hall had one of its busiest years ever, with many difficult changes requiring a lot of extra work and extra training. They installed the new state-mandated Chart of Accounts, installed new financial software and are installing new utility billing software that will be completed March 2000. They were still able to receive their eighth GFOA certification for financial reporting for the 1998 annual report.

In 2000, safety will continue to be a priority. Both police and fire personnel will continue to take additional training to be better prepared for any emergency.

In 1999, the Police Department made 3,503 arrests and collected \$412,219.00 in fines. They received two grants, one of \$12,080.00 for equipment and one for \$5000.00 to purchase a speed detection and safety training machine.

The Fire Department answered 750 calls and purchased a new pumper for additional protection. Plans continue for a fourth station to provide better protection, especially for the north end of town.

With DOT assistance, we were able to complete a major paving project on Piedmont Street that also included replacement of water and sewer lines and installation of a much-improved drainage system. With the help of a \$500,000.00 CDBG grant, we completed water, sewer and street improvements to Phase I of the Mill Village area. We have applied for another grant so we can begin Phase II.

We worked with the Downtown Development Authority and received a \$254,250.00 CDBG grant to reconstruct a burned building on Court Street. Construction should begin in April 2000. The Main Street Program received its second consecutive state award for the "Rodeo Days" promotion.

The Building Inspection Department issued 320 permits for \$20,852,025.00 of construction and provided over 549 inspections.

The Water Department installed 526 water taps, while adding 8.7 miles of water lines. We completed a well project, which can provide up to 2 million gallons of water per day to the City's raw water system. This addition, which came on line in June, allowed us to go through the dry summer months with no restrictions. Water continues to be one of our most important resources and we must continue to seek additional sources. We are currently applying to the state to increase our withdrawal permit from the river, as well as considering other options.

The City made 126 sewer taps and added 0.7 miles of sewer lines. City employees completed the surveying and engineering for the North Industrial Sewer Replacement Project, which will begin this year.

The Electric Department had sales of over 354,000,000 kWh of electricity. The department transfers \$1.5 million annually to reduce property taxes for residents, businesses and industry. In an effort to continue this transfer, the City purchased a 22 megawatt natural gas generator and completed installation in early July 1999. This is to be used in periods of peak demand. According to the United States Department of Energy, utilities have hit demand levels that were not projected for another five years. Power demand is rising faster than the systems' ability to generate and deliver it. The generator will provide the important advantage of supply and price stability. The capacity of self-generation will assist the City in securing reliable, low cost power and will save millions over the life of the project.

We have completed the infrastructure for a state-of-the-art fiber-optic system that includes over 40 miles of cable. It provides reasonably priced, high-speed data transmission services, especially for industry and businesses, as well as a new voice and data network connecting city education and administrative facilities. The system also provides the capabilities of internet, cable and long distance services.

While we have worked well with the county in many areas, I have had a disappointment in the inability to resolve the issues of HB-489, but it is important that we address the issue of duplication of services and double taxation at this time. We have never had the opportunity before and perhaps we will never have this opportunity again. So we look forward to working with the Commissioners as we prepare for the future for all of Gordon County.

Calhoun continues to be one of the outstanding cities in Georgia. Calhoun is a leader in public education and in municipal technology, with its state-of-the-art fiber-optic system and being the first city in Georgia to install a natural gas generator. Calhoun has consistently planned for water and sewer improvements, while maintaining some of the lowest water and sewer rates in Georgia. 1999 was a very busy and productive year and this was accomplished with no increase in net City M & O taxes, if the appraised value of your property remained the same.

We will continue to plan for the future in all areas and our goal remains to provide the best service possible for the least cost.

Thank you.

City of Calhoun, Georgia
City Officials
 2000



Left to Right: Councilman Denmon, Councilman Shelton, Mayor Palmer, Mayor Pro Tem Woods, Councilwoman Potts



Back Row, Left to Right: Carlton Rogers, Sewer Department Superintendent, Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Construction Department Superintendent in Training; Dan Shuler, Water and Sewer Construction Department Superintendent; Larry Vickery, Electric Department Superintendent; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Mark Williamson, Water and Sewer Construction Department Technical Engineer;
Front Row: Eddie Peterson, Assistant Director of Utilities and Public Works; Cathy Harrison, City Administrator; Kelly Cornwell, Director of Utilities and Public Works; Kevin McEntire, Street Department Superintendent.

Not shown: Willie Mitchell, Police Chief; Estes Pass, Water Department Superintendent; Robby Cole, Golf Professional; Harold Franklin, Golf Maintenance Superintendent.