

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

MINUTES

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

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator
Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager
George Govignon, City Attorney
Jeff DeFoor, Director of Electric Utilities
Paul Worley, City Clerk
Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director
Garry Moss, Chief of Police
Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief
Brad Carrick, Telecommunications Director
Danny Stephens, Water Plant Superintendent
Mark Williamson, Superintendent of Water & Sewer Construction
Kevin McEntire, Director of Public Works
Andrea Bramlet, Director of Finance Utilities & General Government
David Burnett, Manager of Engineering Department
Kim Townsend, Recreation Director
Eric Stewart, Golf Professional
Bobby Robertson, Superintendent of Water & Sewer Maintenance
Harold Franklin, Golf Course Superintendent
John Banks, Superintendent of Sewer Treatment

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 Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Crowley seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2014 City Council Meetings. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

5. Mayor's Comments:

- A. Mayor Palmer announced the 2015 appointments of City Council member's appointments, per sec. 2-33 of the Calhoun Code of Ordinances as follows:
- 1) Mayor Pro Tem Edwards- Electric, Telecommunications, Zoning Advisory Board, Downtown Development Authority, Main Street Partnership, and Historic Preservation Commission.
 - 2) Councilman Barton- Water and Sewer Operations, Water and Sewer Construction, Building Inspection, and Recreation and Parks
 - 3) Councilman Crowley- Police, Municipal Court, Fire, Revolving Loan Committee, and Schools.
 - 4) Councilman Hammond- Street, Sanitation, Cemetery, Animal Control, Safety Committee, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, and Airport.
- B. Mayor Palmer reminded the Council that the Mayor's Day Conference will be on January 23-26, 2015 in Atlanta.
- C. Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon, Inc., the contractor responsible for the development of the Calhoun Recreation Master Plan for the 58 acre park, will present the proposed final Master Plan at the next City Council meeting on January 26th. Mayor Palmer stated that this has been a several month process with community participation. Public input meetings were held on October 27th and November 20th to help implement the public's ideas into the Master Plan.

6. Council Comments:

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the December report as follows:
- 1) **Electric Department**
 - o The last phase of the Calhoun High School lighting project continues with the last of the Street and Parking lot Lighting.
 - o The Bad Pole Replacement program continues on South Industrial Blvd.
 - o Electric Engineering continues for the next phase of the Lenox subdivision Community.
 - o Electrical Engineering for the New McDonald's on Red Bud Road continues.
 - o Installation is complete for New Lighting at the Intersection of Hwy 53 and Curtis Parkway.
 - o The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for December was 30,497,717 kwh.
- Work orders in process or completed
- o Newly created- 79
 - o Completed and closed- 61
- Consisting of:
- o Capital construction- 4
 - o Street and security lighting-31
 - o Distribution Maintenance-11
 - o Meter maintenance/replacement- 0

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- New customer meter sets- 0
- Electric locate tickets processed- 147

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Installed two new and disconnect one Internet connections.
- Added 75 Meg of internet to an existing customer.
- Added two mobility licenses for the school phones and installed two new phones for the new school pool.
- Removed fallen tree from fiber line. Fiber was not damaged.
- Assisted vendor with installation of new servers for disaster recovery site.
- Replaced bad switch at Electric Department.
- Added new switch in data closet at Building Inspection to increase number of ports.
- Continued collecting data for the FCC's mandatory data collection on dedicated services provided.
- Spoke with representative that placed the 911 service order and have seen progress to correct phone number list.
- Opened 23 and closed 26 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Continued to work on water distribution layer for water modeling project.
- Updated zoning parcel data.
- Updated pre-fire plans for Fire Department.
- Updated fiber mapping for Telecom Department.
- Updated addresses from changes in billing account data.
- Updated City and GIS websites.

4) Downtown Development Authority

B. Councilman Barton gave the December report as follows:

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

- The Brittany Drive Expansion Project- The project is nearing completion.
- Clarifier Mechanism Replacement Project- The new mechanisms and troughs are on site. Installation has begun and is approximately 75% complete.
- I-75 & Red Bud Road utility relocate- Construction began on November 18th and the utility relocate project is nearing completion. However, the project is currently being delayed by Atlanta Gas Light and by GDOT.
- The 2" galvanized line replacement project is scheduled to begin next week.
- Flocculation and sedimentation control project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant: Work began on August 13th on the large basin and currently the project is four to six weeks behind schedule, but progress is being made.

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- Water System Modeling project is on schedule and should be complete by early February.
 - S.R. 225 Water Main Relocation (GDOT Bridge @New Echota)- The DOT has begun construction for this project. We have only one short section of water main that may have to be moved.
- 2) **Water Treatment Plant Facility**
- Total gallons withdrawn: 270,750,000
 - Daily average: 8,733,871
 - Wells: 133,460,000
 - Big Springs: 0
 - Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 49.3
 - Rainfall- 4.42"
- 3) **Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility**
- Treated a daily average of 5.268 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 6.9, average suspended effluent of 9.6, and an average COD of 63.
- 4) **Water Distribution**
- 3 Water connections, 17 water service leaks repaired, 9 water main leaks repaired, 8 water services changed to new main line, 6 yards or roadway edges repaired due to previous work, 16 utility locates called in for work orders, 321 utility locates responded to, and 40 misc. calls
 - Installed new 6" meter and meter vault for Shaw Plant at 355 S. Industrial Blvd.
- 5) **Waste Water Collection**
- 1,400' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 275 utility locates completed, 2 lift station repairs completed, 4,500' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 74 manholes opened and inspected, 3 new sewer connections installed, 4 sanitary sewer services repaired
- 6) **Building Inspection Department**
- Issued 51 permits for an estimated cost of \$524,630, collected \$7,000 in permit fees. This included 2 new residential, 2 residential remodeling, 1 new industrial, 3 residential plumbing, 4 new residential and 2 commercial HVAC, 17 residential electrical, 8 commercial electric, 5 signs, 1 soil and erosion, and 150 total inspections.
- 7) **Recreation Department**
- Youth Basketball – Youth Basketball games began on December 15. The partnership with Calhoun City School Community Education allows us to be able to use the Primary, Elementary and Middle school gyms for practices and games. All gym space is maxed out for our basketball program December through early February.
 - Youth Football – Youth Football wrapped up December 13 with the GRPA State Championships finals being played. Calhoun 11-12 team won the GRPA State championship and the 9-10 team finished runner-up. Our

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agency hosted the GRPA Northern regionals on December 6-7. All games were played at Phil Reeve Stadium. Teams from Cedartown, Harris County, Rockmart, Crisp County, Effingham County and Calhoun participated in this state event. During the two weekend event the estimated economic impact was \$42,120.00. Calhoun Recreation Department has been awarded the 2015 GRPA State Football Northern Regionals for 7-8; 9-10; and 11-12 age division December 5-6, 2015.

- **2014 TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS:**
Calhoun Recreation Department hosted eight tournaments/special events during 2014 for youth basketball, fast pitch softball, youth baseball, swim, soccer and youth football. A total of 2,855 participants and 7,138 spectators visited Calhoun Recreation Department facilities for these events. The economic impact for these events is estimated at \$569,410.00 for Calhoun and Gordon County.
- Website Usage – total visits 2,004

C. Councilman Crowley gave the December report as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 388 cases with 11 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$55,624
- Issued 474 warnings
- Investigated 84 highway accidents, 34 private property accidents
- Provided 73 escorts
- 1,342 incident reports
- Responded to 288 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 48,225
- Responded to 4,500 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 245
- Court cases dropped- 67
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 180
- Number of Probation cases- 50
- Probation Payments- \$14,149
- Probation Revocations- 0
- Failure to appear- 44
- Prisoner transports- 12

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Responded to 165 calls for service for the suppression division, 1 fire incidents for damages. (\$1,000 in estimated fire damage)
- Responded to 125 medical service calls
- Responded to 4 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 10 false alarms or false calls, 17 good intent
- Assisted the Police Department with traffic/crowd control at the Christmas Parade.

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- Hosted the Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership group at the Training Center for demonstrations on their tour day.
- Firefighters assisted the Voluntary Action Center's distribution of gifts and items to the public and also participated in the "Shop with Santa in Uniform" program with Gordon County Fire.

Training Division

- Department completed 629 hours of training.
- Training consisted of: Officers firefighter management class, confined spaces training, natural gas leaks, and pump training.

4) **Fire Inspection Department**

- 88 total reported activities/inspections which included 18 annual inspections, 2 new business inspections, 26 requested inspections, 12 follow-up or re-inspections, and 24 consultations
- Inspectors attended meetings with LEPC and North Georgia Code Officials Association.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the December report as follows:

1) **Street Department**

- Completed 12 shop and 6 street department work orders.
- Placed 10 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Worked the annual Christmas Parade.
- Yearly leaf pickup continued and mountain bike trail maintenance.
- Continued work on the Animal Control building addition.
- Storm drainage pipe is on site for the continuation of the East May Street improvements in conjunction with the Peters Street project. There will be storm drainage improvements, street lighting, and a new sidewalk installed on East May Street from Peters Street to South Wall Street.

2) **Cemetery Department**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 5 grave sites.
- Sold 6 new grave spaces.
- Worked 6 grave sites.

3) **Animal Control**

- Housed 24 dogs and 10 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 4
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 5
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 7
- Number of dogs euthanized: 2
- Number of cats euthanized: 7
- Number of warnings given: 16

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- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issues: 0
- Number of inquiries: 61
- Animal control is working hard to be a low kill shelter and with the communities help we can greatly reduce the euthanization of animals. 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, books from the library 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.
- Set up the Christmas decoration for Downtown.

5) Safety Committee

- Safety topic- managing stress
- Safety Inspection- Police Department
- Vehicle Accidents: 0
- Workers Compensation: 0

6) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- Councilman Hammond stated that the Regional Commission (RC) will hold its first meeting of 2015 this Thursday.

7) Tom B. David Airport

- The airport is the 7th largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia. The airport is home to the Life Force helicopter and is in current negotiations to help keep them based in Calhoun with the possibility of building an new hanger for the Life Force helicopter.

7. Public Hearings and Comments: None

8. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a Liquor Pouring License request by Steve Bayzid, DBA: Taco House at a location of 803 South Wall Street. The public hearing will be on January 26th.
- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the second reading of a taxicab regulatory license application by Miguel Leon, DBA: Taxi Aztlan at a location of 235 West Line Street Suit 7. The public hearing will be on January 26th.

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9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer asked for a motion regarding selection of Mayor Pro Tem for 2015. Councilman Crowley made a motion to nominate Councilman Edwards as Mayor Pro Tem for 2015. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- B. Mayor Palmer read the following list of department heads for re-appointed for 2015.

General Government Division:

City Administrator- Eddie Peterson
City Clerk- Paul Worley
Director of Finance Utilities & General Gov. – Andrea Bramlett
Police Chief – Garry Moss
Director of Probation- Neal Russell
Fire Chief - Lenny Nesbitt
Director of Public Works - Kevin McEntire
Recreation Director – Kimberly Townsend
Golf Professional – Eric Stewart
Superintendent of Golf Maintenance - Harold Franklin

- Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the reappointment of stated department heads for the General Government Division. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

Utility Division:

Director of Utilities – Larry Vickery
Director of Water & Sewer - Jerry Crawford
Director of Electric – Jeff Defoor
Director of Telecommunications – Brad Carrick
Manager of Engineering Department – David Burnett
Superintendent of Water Treatment – Danny Stephens
Superintendent of Water & Sewer Construction – Mark Williamson
Superintendent of Sewer Treatment – John Banks
Superintendent of Water & Sewer Maintenance– Bobby Robertson

- Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the reappointment of stated department heads for the Utility Division. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

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- C. Mayor Palmer read a list of appointments to the following City positions for 2015: City Chaplain- Dr. Bert Vaughn, City Attorney- George Govignon, Municipal Court Judge- Honorable Suzanne Smith, Indigent Defense Attorney- Ms. Rebecca Paris, and Town Marshal- Randy Jackson.
- Councilman Edwards made a motion to appoint the stated City positions for 2015. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer read the qualifying fees for 2015 General Election- Mayor- currently held by James F. Palmer; City Council Post 1- currently held by George Crowley; Post 2- currently held by Al Edwards; School Board Post 4- currently held by Eddie Reeves; Post 5- currently held by Tony Swink
- Mayor- \$432.00
 - City Council- \$144.00
 - School Board- \$1.00
 - Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the stated qualifying fees. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
 - Mayor Palmer stated that State law dictates that there has to be a qualifying fee set and it is based off a percentage of pay. However, the school board serves with no pay. Several years ago the Mayor and Council recommended the school board receive compensation for their service, but the school board declined to accept it. This is a testament to their dedication to the students of the community and their service is greatly appreciated.
- E. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a variance request to allow removal of the existing single family home and rebuild a single family home in R-2 zoning by Kelly Cornwell at a location of 203 Barrett Road. The ZAB will meet on February 5th and the public hearing will be on February 9th.
- F. The DDA, CVB and Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee request street closings in connection with the Annual BBQ Boogie & Blues Special Event. The professional BBQ competitors will be in Downtown to set up for the competition on Thursday, April 23rd. This will require that the short block of King Street between Court Street and Oothcalooga Street be limited access only. This block will remain closed until Saturday, April 25th at 9:00pm. In addition to this short block closure, we request the section of Park Avenue from Harlen Street to Oothcalooga Street be closed/limited access only from Friday afternoon at 2:00pm until Saturday at 7:00pm. We request permission to completely close the section of Court Street from King Street to Wall Street on Friday, April 24th from 3:30pm until 11:00pm. Also, Saturday, April 25th from 8:00am until 6:00pm. The times are to give ample time for setup and take down of all booths. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the road closure requests. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- G. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer and wine package license request by Abuali Pirani DBA: San Marcos Market at a location of 90 East May Street. Councilman Crowley made a motion to set the public hearing for February 9th. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

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- H. Mayor Palmer stated that the Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Audit had been submitted to the State on a timely basis and thanked the Finance Department and everyone for their hard work. There were a lot of positives in the audit report that were discussed at the Noon work session. The audit report is available on the City's website, City Hall, and the Library. Mayor Palmer thanked all Department Heads for doing an excellent job in coming in under budget on expenses. This is quite an accomplishment seeing as the budgets were set very tight. Councilman Hammond stated that this financial audit and past audits are online for anyone in the community to review.

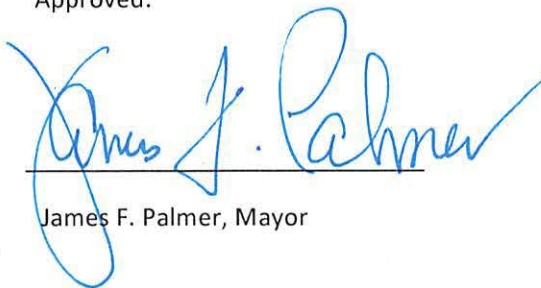
10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

- A. Eddie Peterson, City Administrator
- B. Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager
- C. George Govignon, City Attorney

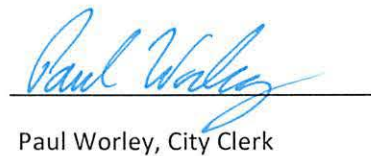
12. Councilman Hammond made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barton with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk



This has been a very successful year for the City of Calhoun. As we continue to rebound from the very difficult economic times. Our goal remains to provide excellent services to our residents, businesses, and industry, in a safe community with the quality of life we all expect.

This year the Police Department was once again recognized by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for their dedication to highway safety and prevention of accidents. Because of their efforts the number of accidents and DUI's have been cut in half. The department also received a \$7,500 grant from the Department of Justice to fund a new intoxilyzer.

The Fire Department completed a training Center, improved the communication system, and are in the process of purchasing property on the North end of the City. We believe with these improvements we can get our ISO rating from a 4 down to a 3. Quite often the Fire Department members are the first responders to accidents and emergency events. To provide better service to our community, today 10 of our firefighters are certified EMT's and 3 more are expected to graduate EMT school this year.

There was an increase of 23% in permits sold by the Community Development Department. Some of the significant construction projects included the Mohawk Office Complex, Fairfield Inn and Suites, Applebees, Waffle House, Nourison expansion, and Cherokee Mill Loft. Also, we had an estimated value of new residential homes permitted at over \$3 million.

2014 looks to be a steady increase in construction particularly in commercial with projects under construction or in planning stages. There are also major construction projects that will change the face of the City forever.

1. Union Grove interchange: a project 25 years in the making.
2. Red Bud Road interchange: the clearing and removal of the Oglethorpe Inn has already had a major impact.
3. We saw the completion of Streetscape phase III in 2013 and Streetscape IV will soon be underway: From Hicks Street South to Piedmont Street, using \$400,000 GDOT grant funding.
4. Linda Lane/May Street: Improve traffic flow with more than 1 way in and 1 way out of the school complex. Peters Street has been turned over to the engineers and surveyors to start a \$4 million joint City/County project.

5. Cherokee Mill Lofts: Eliminated a blighted area of the City and turned the old O'Jay Mill building into 60 Garden and Loft apartments. The approximate investment in this project is \$10 million, which is funded through grants and Federal Tax Credits.

There are many factors involved in Industrial recruitment and the expansion of existing industry

1. Available property and/or existing buildings: Today there is property available either controlled by the IDA or privately owned.
2. Utility rates- Some of the lowest rates and most reliable in the state with excess capacity in both water and sewer. Broadband infrastructure also in place.
3. Transportation and accessibility to the Interstate: With the addition of the Union Grove interchange, we will have a total of 6 interchanges.
4. I am also asked about:
 - a. Strength of Community- Very strong with great quality of life.
 - b. Schools- We are a leader in public education with a technical college that works with local industry: Stronger education, stronger workforce, stronger economy.
 - c. Healthcare- \$27 million expansion at Gordon Hospital

5. There are also financial concerns such as Freeport, which is an inventory tax. Most of the cities and counties throughout the State are at 100% exemption. This year we worked with IDA and the County to increase the exemption to 40% with a commitment to review each year.

This decision has already paid dividends. We have an existing industry that was considering relocating, instead they are going to invest millions, creating new jobs and very important is the retention of 290 existing jobs.

A recent study by UGA shows the economic impact of 100 manufacturing jobs gained or lost is equivalent to gaining or losing \$5.2 million in local wages and gaining or losing \$27 million in total economic output.

We also increased the hotel/motel tax from 5 to 8%.

With this we give:

1. 2% to the Industrial Development Authority to support economic and industrial development for all of Gordon County.
2. 3 ½% to the Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote tourism throughout Gordon County.
3. ½% to the Downtown Development Authority

4. 1% for tourism product development: the first project we are working on is the lighting of exit 312. This is something the requested by the owner/operators.
5. We also have 1% going to recreation. Last year the Recreation Department hosted 14 tournaments or special events, with as many as 60 teams in one event. These brought 4,100 participants and 6,000 spectators, where most eat, stay, and shop in our community with an estimated economic impact of approximately \$612,000. Even more events are scheduled for this year.

We are pleased that we have been able to maintain our current tax rate with no decrease in services. This is at a time when we have seen the tax digest drop over \$100 million. The millage rate today remains at 1.98 and it has been under 2 mills since 1998 when it was 1.985. Today the taxes on a house valued at \$150,000 would be \$118. The same house in Dalton would be \$392 and in Rome would be \$522.