



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 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; Tony Pyle, Police Chief.

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. **Swearing in of Elected Officials**  
Mayor Palmer performed the swearing in ceremonies of newly elected official Bruce Potts, Councilmember Post 4, and incumbent Ed Moyer, Councilmember Post 3.
4. **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.
5. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the executive session of December 22, 2025. Councilmember Potts gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- B. 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.

6. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer presented the 2026 appointments of City Council members for reporting purposes for various departments of the City according to Calhoun Code of Ordinances Section 2-33.
  - Councilmember Palazzolo – Police, Municipal Court, Fire, Safety, and Library.
  - Councilmember Edwards – Electric, Telecommunications, Building Inspections, and, Zoning Advisory Board.
  - Councilmember Potts – Water and Sewer Operations, Water and Sewer Construction, Revolving Loan, and Northwest Georgia Regional Commission.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Moyer – Public Works, Recreation, DDA, Mainstreet Program, and Historic Preservation.
- B. Mayor Palmer announced that council members will be attending the upcoming GMA Cities United Summit on January 23-25, 2026 in Atlanta.
- C. Mayor Palmer announced that City of Calhoun offices will be closed January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

7. **Council Comments**

- A. Councilmember Palazzolo submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 166 cases with 5 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$22,240
- Issued 453 warnings
- Investigated 69 highway accidents, 0 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 7
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 0
- Alarm responses - 149
- Miles patrolled: 48,058

2) **Municipal Court**

- Citations from Police Department-173
- Court cases docketed- 225
- Probation cases assigned- 23
- Probation revocations- 2
- Bench warrants-3
- Failure to appear- 21

3) **Fire Department**

### **Suppression Division**

- 235 Total Calls for Service to Include:
  - 10 – Fire Calls
  - 0 – Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Excessive Heat (No Fire)
  - 159 – Rescue and EMS Response
  - 2 – Hazardous Conditions Calls (No Fire)
  - 10 – Service Calls
  - 28 – Good Intent Calls
  - 26 – False Alarms or False Calls
  - 0 – Severe Weather and Natural Disaster
  - 0 – Special Incident Types

### **Department Response Times**

- Turnout Time – 1 minute 55 seconds
- Travel Time – 3:42 minutes 32 seconds
- Total Response Time – 5 minutes and 37 seconds

### **Department Events**

- December – Continued Advanced EMT Class with five personnel in class.
- December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Received new SL-75 and completed in service training to place apparatus into service.
- December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 8 Personnel provided traffic control and medical support for the City of Calhoun Christmas Parade
- December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Lt Daniel successfully completed the GPSTC Structural Fire Control Instructor Course.
- December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Taught CPR at Calhoun Police Department for 4 Police Officers
- December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Lt Underwood completed a Christmas PR Request in Riverside Subdivision.
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 – 8 Personnel participated in the Gordon County Fire Rescue Santa in Uniform Event.

### **Inspections Division**

- 36 – Total Monthly Inspections

### **Training Division**

- 865.92 Hours – Total Department Monthly Training Hours.
- 14103.94 Hours – Total Department Annual Training Hours.

### **December Upcoming Events**

- January – Advanced EMT class will continue throughout the month

- January 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026 – Pediatric Advanced Life Support Course
- January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – SCBA Training Calhoun Water Department
- January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Command and Control of Fire Department Operations Target Hazards
- January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Stop the Bleed Training Calhoun High School
- January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 – CrisisTrack Training with Gordon County
- January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Transitional and Intrapersonal Leadership 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: 1 – Parks Department
- Workers compensation: 0

5) **Library**

- There are 13,014 library card holders, 4,790 library visitors, and 5,910 total circulation.
- There were 242 story time attendance, 236 adult program attendance, 70 new users, 1,579 e-books, 2,557 audio books, 357 computer logins, and 6,913 Facebook visits.

B. Councilmember Edwards presented December reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

**Current Electric Department Engineering and Construction:**

- The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.

**ENGINEERING**

New development on Peters St (102 homes)  
Dialysis Center on Curtis Pkwy  
Store on Curtis Pkwy

**CONSTRUCTION**

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

**WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:**

• NEWLY CREATED	48
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	39
•	
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	19
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	6
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	4
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	1
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	1
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	9
• NEW METER SETS	7
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	86
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	185

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for DECEMBER 2025 is about 26 million kilowatt hours (kWh's).

2) **Telecommunications**

- Installed and configured the new network Firewalls at central office and police department.
- Meeting setup with ATT to switch over copper elevator phone lines at High School.
- Ordered and received the 2 new GIS Servers.
- Worked on migrating the remaining computers to Windows 11 operating system.
- Ran updates and troubleshooted Munis software.
- Completed updates on our virtual server software.
- Setup and installed 1 new laptop and 2 new desktop computers.
- Moved HR department computer setup to different location.
- Troubleshooted a number of customer's internet connections.
- Submitted 4 quotes for new internet customers.
- Setup 3 new internet customers.
- Completed a number of 811 fiber locates.
- Opened 17 work orders and closed 15 work orders.

**Geographic Information Systems**

- 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 88 permits for an estimated cost of \$4,551,153.59, collected \$33,757.00 in permit fees. This included 14 new residential, 6 residential remodel, 2 new commercial, 1 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 0 industrial remodel, 18 residential plumbing, 20 residential electrical, 11 residential HVAC, 1 commercial plumbing, 4 commercial electrical, 0 commercial HVAC, 0 industrial plumbing, and 1 industrial electrical. 193 total inspections.

4) **Zoning Advisory Board**

C. Councilmember Potts submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

**Water Treatment Plant**

- Total gallons withdrawn: 339,570,000
- Daily average: 10,953,870
- Wells: 112,260,000
- Big Springs: 47,930,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 47.2%
  - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 43.7%
  - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 36.17%
  - Rainfall for December – 1.36”

**Waste Water Treatment Plant**

- Treated a daily average of 4.163 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 11, and an average COD of 76.

**Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection**

- 367 work orders completed, 25 new water connections, 16 water service leaks repaired, 23 water main leaks repaired, 233 meter changes, 29 utility locates called in for work orders, 569 utility locates responses.
- 2,000 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 0 utility locates completed, 0 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 0 new sewer connections installed, 0 sanitary sewer connections installed by contractors, 0 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.
- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project – This project is approximately 75% completed.

- GDOT SR 53 & Brown Lee Mtn. Water Relocation Project – This project is approximately 85% completed.

### **Projects in Design & Development**

- New Fire Tower Water Tank Project – Surveying has been completed and design is underway.
- Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Modifications
- GDOT SR 156 @ Salacoa Bridge Water Relocation 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.
- Engineering for Spring Valley Sewer Phase II Rehabilitation Project (50% Complete)
- The Engineering Department is actively working on 7 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 December reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

#### **Street Department**

- Completed 30 shop and 25 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 5 new street signs.
- Repaired curb on Valley Circle.
- Worked the annual Christmas parade.

#### **Cemetery**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 12 grave sites.
- Sold 4 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 42 dogs and 7 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 26
- Number of cats adopted: 3

- 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: 2
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issued: 0

2) **Recreation Department**

**YOUTH SPORTS:**

Soccer – Our 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 boys’ teams traveled to Thomasville for the GRPA State Soccer Tournament on December 5-6. Our 9-10 boys won the GRPA State Championship.

Basketball – Youth basketball games began December 6. Thirty-two games were played December 6-19 using the Recreation Center gym and Calhoun Middle School gym. The Recreation Center gym has been shut down now as the demolition of the Recreation Center will be starting soon. Our partnership with Calhoun City Schools allows us to be able to use the primary and elementary gyms for games and practices along with Calhoun Middle School for games on Fridays and Saturdays.

**OTHER PROGRAMS:**

**Santa’s Calling** – December 2 and 4 were Santa’s Calling days. We had 79 families with 85 boys and girls that received a call from Santa Claus and his elves.

**Santa’s Workshop @ Snowman Spectacular** – December 5 staff assisted with set up for the kick-off of snowman spectacular. All children attending were able to make Christmas ornaments and have a cup of hot chocolate.

**Senior Trip** – Atlanta Botanical Gardens Christmas Lights – December 10 staff took a group of 15 participants to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to enjoy the gardens and the lights.

**Tennis –**

MAP Tuesday/Thursday Clinics – 28 participants

STA Fall Combo League 18+ Over – 134 participants

Drills and Instructions Daily (Dave Stokes/Russ Munson) – 40 participants weekly approx.

STA Christmas Tournament – 72 Participants

Locke Christmas QUADS – 100 plus participants

CHS/CMS Tennis Tryouts 01/20 – practice begins 01/26

**WEBSITE USAGE:**

CalhounRec.com	Facebook
Sessions – 1,680	Views – 34,550
Users – 1,271	Engagements – 2,293
Page Views – 2,367	Posts – 9
Posts 4	Page Reactions – 221

**PARK MAINTENANCE:**

- 1 – Trail clean-up
- 2 – Assisted in cleaning out Recreation Center
- 3 -Winterized Park Bathrooms
- 4 – Closed Soccer complex – field maintenance

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

**Historic Preservation Commission**

During the fourth quarter of 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) received three presentations from the Gordon County Civic Club regarding the Stephenson School Campus and its historic significance to the City of Calhoun and Gordon County. The Civic Club requested designation of the site as a local historic district.

In December, the HPC unanimously voted to recommend approval of this designation to City Council. A letter outlining the HPC’s recommendation is attached, along with letters of support from local African American community leaders and nearby churches.

**Downtown Calhoun – 2025 Annual Summary**

Downtown Calhoun continued to experience growth in 2025, supported by increased visitation, active programming, and continued investment.

An estimated 38,000 additional visitors were recorded downtown during the year. While signature events and newer initiatives such as Rocktober and the Block Parties contributed to this increase, foot traffic was also measurably higher between events. This reflects a positive shift toward more consistent daily activity downtown, with increased visitation for shopping, dining, and entertainment outside of major event dates.

Signature events remained an important driver of engagement, including BBQ & Boogie 2025, which recorded the highest attendance in the event’s 13-year history, exceeding the previous record by approximately 2,000 attendees. Merchant feedback continued to indicate economic impact, with one downtown retailer reporting more than \$7,000 in sales during a single Saturday event period.

Five new businesses opened downtown in 2025. The district hosted 15 outdoor events, including festivals, parades, and retail-focused activities, activating public spaces and supporting downtown commerce.

The Downtown Calhoun Farmers' Market remained a strong weekly draw, averaging more than 900 shoppers per week. Preservation efforts included \$2,895 invested in historic façade improvements.

Downtown marketing and outreach generated more than 2.5 million Facebook views in 2025, supporting tourism, event attendance, and business visibility.

These outcomes reflect strong collaboration among downtown businesses, community partners, residents, and visitors, with continued support from City Council, Mayor Palmer, City Administrator Paul Worley, and the Downtown Development Authority Board. Downtown Calhoun enters 2026 well-positioned to build on this momentum. Thank you for all you have done to help us achieve such a wonderful 2025!

### **Strategic Planning**

In December, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board reviewed 2025 accomplishments and adopted its 2026 Work Plan, as required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The Work Plan will guide priorities and projects for the coming year.

Primary focus areas for 2026 include downtown beautification projects, ordinance review, expansion of façade improvement grants, creation of new small business support grants, placemaking initiatives focused on young families, and development of a new business resources welcome packet.

## **8. 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 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. Public hearing of a variance request for a proposed accessory building that would exceed the allowable maximum size of 50% of the primary structure's footprint. The proposed garage exceeds this limit by 181 square feet. The request pertains to 0.225 acres located at 500 Pisgah Way, being parcel C24-030, and is submitted by Montana Etheridge. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Councilmember Edwards gave the report on Zoning Advisory Board stating that the board recommended approval of the variance request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments.

- There being none, Councilmember Edwards closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the variance request.
- Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

9. **Other Hearings and Comments**

A. Public hearing of an ordinance to amend Section 10.14 of the City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances, revising sign and copy area regulations for billboards adjacent to designated state routes and Interstate 75; updating public street right-of-way setback requirements and required separation from residential zoning districts; establishing an effective date; and for other purposes.

- 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.
- There being none, Councilmember Potts made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Public hearing of an ordinance to amend Section 2-99, Municipal public defender, of the City of Calhoun Code of Ordinances, revising residency qualifications, establishing an effective date; and for other purposes.

- 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.
- There being none, Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

10. **Old Business**

11. **New Business**

A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from County R-3 to R1-B for 0.172 acres at a location of 1005 Court Street, being parcel 002-039, by Sulma Betancourt. The Zoning Advisory Board will be held February 5<sup>th</sup> and the public hearing February 9<sup>th</sup>.

B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer and wine package application at a location of 235 West Line Street, Suite 2, by Dews Pond Ventures LLC d/b/a Amoco. Noor B. Ali is the owner and the proposed store manager. Eligible for a public hearing February 9<sup>th</sup>.

C. Mayor Palmer stated a motion was needed concerning nominations for the 2026 appointment of Mayor Pro Tem in accordance to the City Charter, Section 2-302. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to reappoint Ed Moyer as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. There were no other

nominations and Mayor Palmer called for a motion to reappoint Councilmember Moyer as the 2026 Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Potts made a motion to reappoint Councilmember Moyer. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second by with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- D. Mayor Palmer read the list of current department heads and stated that a motion was needed to appoint/re-appoint Department Heads for 2026 according to the City Charter and Chapter 2: Administration of the Calhoun Code of Ordinances. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to reappoint current department heads as presented. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer stated that a motion was needed regarding the proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget Calendar. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the budget calendar as presented. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- F. Mayor Palmer read a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission recommending approval of the designation of the Stephens School Campus located at 503 McConnell Road and 700 West Line Street as a Local Historic District. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and approve the designation. Councilmember Potts gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- G. Mayor Palmer read a request from Calhoun Utilities to contract with Water Revenue Resources, LLC for the purpose of providing a water and sewer billing audit. Utilities Administrator Ellis stated the audit will improve the city's water audit score, improve equity among customers and educate staff. Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the contract. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the contract. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

**12. Other Written Items Not on the Agenda**

**13. Work Reports**

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator, requested approval to award the low bid in the amount of \$271,153.32 to Central Pro Supply-Hunter Irrigation for equipment of the irrigation renovation at Fields Ferry Golf Course, and to award the low bid to Forefront in the combined amount of \$286,900 for installation of the irrigation equipment, valves and construction of a new putting green. Councilmember Potts made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- B. Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator had nothing to report.
- C. George Govignon, City Attorney had nothing to report.

**14. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed**

15. Motion to return to General Session

16. 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 7:43 p.m.

Approved:

  
James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:

  
Sharon Nelson, City Clerk



