

**CITY OF CALHOUN  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM  
109 SOUTH KING ST  
AUGUST 12, 2013 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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

**ALSO:** Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; Paul Worley, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Gary Moss, Police Chief; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Chuck Poarch, Battalion Chief; Kim Townsend, Recreation Director

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
  - A. Councilman Crowley gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Crowley seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2013 City Council Meeting. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the special called City Council Meeting of July 26, 2013. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
  - A. Mayor Palmer stated that the City of Calhoun Finance Department has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Individual award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to Andrea Bramlett, Director of Finance. Mayor Palmer thanked the entire Finance Department for all of their hard work.
  - B. Mayor Palmer announced and recognized that Bryant Mathis won the GRPA State Championship in the 50 yard breast stroke and also set the new state record in that event. Bryant has won this event for the past 4 years – 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. This year he set the new GRPA state record in the 50 yard Breast Stroke with a time of 27.37 seconds. Mayor Palmer congratulated Bryant for his accomplishments and

discussed the time, travel, and dedication it takes to be successful in the sport of swimming.

**6. Council Comments:**

A. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the July reports as follows:

**1) Police Department**

- Made 729 cases with 6 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$110,620.00
- Issued 748 warnings
- Investigated 49 highway accidents, 29 private property accidents
- Provided 64 escorts
- 1,776 incident reports
- Responded to 851 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 53,529
- Responded to 5,211 calls for service by E-911

**2) Municipal Court and Probation**

- Total Court cases- 535
- Court cases dropped- 117
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 309
- Number of Probation cases- 72
- Probation Payments- \$44,685.00
- Probation Revocations- 28
- Failure to appear- 56
- Prisoner transports- 34

**3) Fire Department- Suppression**

- Responded to 159 calls for service for the suppression division, 5 fire incidents for damages (\$50,200 in estimated fire damage)
- Responded to 103 medical service calls
- Responded to 8 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 20 false alarms or false calls, 19 good intent
- Hosted the Northwest Ga. Fire Chiefs Association Muster, located in the Home Depot parking lot. Home Depot also helped sponsor the event. This event brings Fire Department "Teams" together to compete in job related events. There were 6 teams. This muster was one of three to be held in NW Ga. to raise money for scholarships that are awarded by the Chiefs association. The others are held in Cartersville and Fort Oglethorpe. Calhoun placed second by way of a tie breaker based on total time in the events.

**Training Division**

- Department completed 583 man hours of in house training.

4) **Fire Inspection Department**

- 98 total reported activities/inspections which included 13 annual inspections, 27 requested inspections, 10 follow-up or re-inspections, and 37 consultations

5) **Downtown Development Authority**

- The DDA reports that the real estate transaction to Cherokee Mill Lofts, LLC is complete. We are now looking forward to breaking ground before the end of summer for the 60' garden and loft apartment renovation of the former O'Jay Mills property on Highway 53 Spur. The near \$9 million project will make a huge impact in the neighborhood and our entire community.
- The new green space at the corner of Hicks and Wall Street is nearing completion. We invite the public to use the space for picnics or simply relaxing during your lunch hour; and, as many have already done – as a backdrop for beautiful pictures in Downtown Calhoun.
- The Harris Arts Center and GEM Theatre successfully entertained many from our community in July with concerts, movies, a puppet show, art shows, and a sold out *Calhoun's Got Talent* once again this year. Downtown Calhoun appreciates our community's support of these two very important venues. Please check out what will be coming up at each during August and September as well.

B. Councilman Barton gave the July as follows:

1) **Street Department**

- Completed 24 shop and 21 street department work orders.
- Placed 6 new street signs.
- Repaired catch basins on Oothcalooga Street, Wildwood Circle, and a storm Drain on Chandler Street.
- Installed 4500 square feet of Bermuda sod, six large decorative rocks, four crape myrtles, and assorted flowers at the new park on the corner of Hicks Street and South Wall Street.
- Repaired Utility cuts and pot holes around town using approximately 31 tons of asphalt.

2) **Cemetery Department**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 9 grave sites.
- Sold 11 new grave spaces.
- Worked 9 grave sites.

3) **Rabies Control**

- Housed 13 dogs, and 8 cats

- Issued 2 warning
- Answered 64 customer calls

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.

5) **Safety Committee**

- Safety topic- head protection
- Safety Inspection- Electric and Telecommunication Departments
- Accidents: Vehicle Accident-0
- Workers Comp: 1- Police Department

6) **Recreation Department**

- **YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL:** During the week of July 8 – 13 Calhoun Recreation Department had 3 teams that participated in the GRPA State tournaments and 1 team that participated in the Dizzy Dean State tournament. The following teams advanced:  
7-8 Girls – Finished 4th in the GRPA State tournament in Dublin.  
7 Year Old Boys – Finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the Dizzy Dean State tournament in Rome.  
8 Year Old Boys – Finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the GRPA State tournament in Americus.  
11-12 Boys – Finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the GRPA State tournament in Thomson.
- Our department hosted the Georgia ASA State tournament for 18 A and 10 A Girls on July 12- 14
- There were a total of 18 teams that participated in the ASA State tournament.
- July 20 the NSA rented our facility for an invitational girls fast pitch tournament which had 14 teams participating in this one day event.
- The estimated economic impact for the tournaments held on July 12 – 14 and July 20 for Calhoun-Gordon County is \$130,780.00
- **SWIM** – The Calhoun Blue Barracudas finished their season with 38 swimmers advancing to the GRPA State Swim meet in Tifton July 19 – 20. Bryant Mathis won the state championship in the 50 yard breast stroke. Bryant also set a new state record for the 50 yard breast stroke at 27.37. The Blue Barracudas finished 10<sup>th</sup> as a team in the GRPA State Swim meet.
- There were a total of 1,930 visits to the pool and 10 pool parties during July.

C. Councilman Crowley gave the July report as follows:

1) **Water, Sewer, and Engineering**

- The Brittany Drive Expansion Project- Pipe gallery installation is underway.

- Water and Sewer relocation for the Union Grove Interchange has begun and is approximately 97% complete. Minor items remaining are being coordinated with the grading contractor.
- The Floyd County wholesale connection is active with Floyd County taking approximately one-half million gallons per day.
- I-75 & Red Bud Road utility relocate- Notice to proceed from GDOT was issued on May 30, 2013. The design is complete. We have 350 days to complete the work.
- Linda Lane and East May Street water main upgrades are complete.
- SR 53 and Cash Road Intersection Improvements- Utility Relocations. GDOT has given us a notice to proceed. The work will take approximately 45 days to complete.
- King Street and Pine Street replacement sewer design is complete.

**2) Water Treatment Plant Facility**

- Total gallons withdrawn: 302,740,000
- Daily average: 9,765,806
- Wells: 43,450,000
- Big Springs: 89,140,000
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 43.8
- Rainfall- 6.87"

**3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility**

- Treated a daily average of 6.969 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 36.

**4) Water Distribution**

- 3 Water connections, 30 water service leaks repaired, 14 water main leaks repaired, 24 water services changed from old water main to new main, 14 water meters changed for yearly testing, 19 yards or roadway edges repaired due to previous work, 57 utility locates called in for work orders, 428 utility locates responded to, and 82 misc. calls
- Began changing water mains on East May Street to new 6" line.
- Completed line improvements in Kinman Road area off McDaniel Station Road.

**5) Waste Water Collection**

- 1,370' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 298 utility locates completed, 3 lift station repairs completed, 7,250' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 94 manholes opened and inspected, 5 sanitary sewer services repaired
- Continued work on Big Springs site improvement project.
- Installed new sewer service line for McConnell Road Community Center.
- Continued work on East May Street and Linda Lane improvements.

**6) Building Inspection Department**

- Issued 38 permits for an estimated cost of \$900,645.00 and collected \$6,862.00 in permit fees. This included 1 new residential, 3 residential remodeling, 6 commercial remodeling, 3 commercial plumbing, 1 new residential HVAC, 3 residential electrical, 1 commercial electrical, 5 sign permits, and 100 total inspections.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the July report as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- Work continues on the New High School / Middle School expansion.
- Construction continues on the new Gordon County Agriculture Center which is scheduled for completion in late September. Over 3,400 linear feet of underground primary and secondary wire has been installed.
- Bentley Dye Expansion on River Street is near completion with the placement of a 2,500 kVA transformer.
- Electrical Engineering has begun for the new RaceTrak Market on Hwy 53.
- Linda Lane lighting improvement continues with the order of 19 new LED Street lights.
- Ga. DOT has approved the relocation of Power Lines necessary for the New Gordon County Career Academy.
- Ga. DOT has approved the Red Bud Road intersection improvement at Curtis Parkway and Warrior Path.
- Even with the milder temperatures we broke another Electric record. In July the load was 42,023,047 kWh, the old July record (with many 100 degree days) was in 2011 at 41,952,300. Not a big percentage but still growth and a good indicator of manufacturing strength and economic progress.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 47
- Completed and closed- 37
- Consisting of:
  - Capital construction- 11
  - Street and security lighting-6
  - Distribution Maintenance-16
  - Meter maintenance/replacement- 43
  - New customer meter sets- 17
  - Monthly total system locate tickets processed- 228

2) **Telecommunications Departments:**

- Installed one new Internet connection and started construction on another.
- Completed city government phone conversion to new Shortel system
- Installed new Shortel phones at the new High School.
- Started construction on 2100 feet of fiber reroute on North 41.
- Continued construction of fiber reroute at Union Grove Road and I-75.
- Opened 25 and closed 27 work orders.

**3) Geographic Information Systems:**

- Continued to work on water line connection verification
- Updated zoning maps
- Updated Utility easement maps
- Updated pre-fire plans for Fire Department
- Updated addresses from changes in billing account data
- Assisted Engineering with ongoing wastewater inflow/infiltration project.
- Updated City and GIS websites and software

**4) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission**

- Councilman Hammond discussed that the Regional Commission oversees 15 counties in Northwest Georgia that helps to reallocate federal dollars to various programs that benefit the citizens such as meals on wheels, workforce training, and community planning.
- The Commission has hired a new Executive Director, Lloyd Frasier, and hired a new finance director that was a former auditor and is helping to get the budget into balance. The State of Georgia recently evaluated all regional commissions throughout the state and the NWGRC ranked the second highest with a score of 95.4%. The NWGRC is the second largest populated regional commission, only behind the Atlanta Regional Commission.

**5) Airport**

- The airport is involved with moving dirt and shooting the perimeter of the new taxiway. The airport is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia.

**7. Public Hearings and Comments:**

A. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for a variance request by Adrian Hice at a location of 106 Jackson Street. The variance request is for a 2' variance from the required 10' side yard setback for an awning addition to the existing house.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards reported that the Zoning Advisory Board met on August 8<sup>th</sup> and recommended that the variance be granted.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

**8. Old Business: None**

9. New Business:

- A. Jean Cox addressed the Council concerning a request to name the new park at 215 South Wall Street after Ernest Neal. Ernest Neal lived from 1858 to 1943 and was named the second Poet Laureate of Georgia and held the position from 1927 until his death in 1943. Mrs. Cox read Ernest Neal's poem "Calhoun" and hoped the City could do something to honor Mr. Neal's life. Mayor Palmer said they would look into a proper way of honoring Mr. Neal and perhaps a framed picture of the poem to display at the Depot would be appropriate. The Mayor and Council thanked Mrs. Cox for her presentation.
- B. Mayor Palmer read a road closure request by United Way of Gordon County for Unity Run XX to be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 6:30pm. The Unity Run begins on Warrior Path at Gordon Central High School, crosses Red Bud Road onto Curtis Parkway, right onto Dews Pond Road, right onto Barrett Road, left onto Meadow Lane, left onto Buena Vista continuing on Boulevard Heights, right onto East Line Street, left onto Piedmont Street, right onto North Court Street crosses Hwy 41 and ends at the corner of Court Street and Park Avenue in downtown Calhoun. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the road closure request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a new version of Section 58 of the Calhoun Code of Ordinances to allow for the City to collect costs on properties with overgrown vegetation and/or improper trash disposal. Attorney Govignon stated that the rewritten section 58 would give the City a better ability to notify owners and identify responsible parties for the neglect of occupied and unoccupied properties, and improve collection efforts when forced to abate a nuisance. Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the public hearing for August 26<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading for a sign variance request by NRP, LLC (Applebee's) at a location of 1008 Hwy 53 SE. Variance request of 95 feet in height and 360 square feet for the face of the sign. The sign variance is to vary from the allowed 25 feet to 120 feet in height of the sign and to vary from the allowed 120 square feet to 480 square feet for the face of the sign. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the public hearing for September 9<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer and wine pouring license request from Saleh Rashid DBA: Classic Kitchen at a location of 203 Richardson Road Suite 110. Councilman Barton made a motion to set the public hearing on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- F. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of an ordinance change for the on-system and off-system streets within the City of Calhoun. The State of Georgia has surveyed and approved all of Curtis Parkway, which includes a section of Curtis Parkway from Wildwood Circle to Professional Court as a school zone, to be eligible for the use of speed control devices. Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the public hearing for August 26<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

- A. City Administrator Peterson
- B. General Manager Vickery
- C. City Attorney Govignon

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

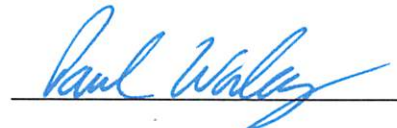
Approved:



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James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



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Paul Worley, City Clerk