



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2021 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
George R. Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilman
Al Edwards, Councilman
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilwoman

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Tony Pyle, Police Chief; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief.

1. Council Meeting Called to Order

Welcome

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

Invocation

Councilman Edwards gave the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

3. Amendment or Approval of Proposed Agenda

Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the January 11, 2021 agenda as presented. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

4. Amendment or Approval of Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of December 28, 2020. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

None

6. **Council Comments**

A. Councilwoman Palazzolo submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 315,200,000
- Daily average: 10,167,741
- Wells: 0
- Big Springs: 128,830,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 40.8%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 35.21%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 37.57%
 - Rainfall for December – 5.23"
 - 2020 rainfall – 62.37"

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 5.385 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 13, and an average COD of 54.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 296 work orders completed, 17 new water connections, 16 water service leaks repaired, 13 water main leaks repaired, 0 water services changed to new main lines, 164 meter changes, 40 utility locates called in for work orders, 680 utility locates responses.
- 2,350 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 413 utility locates completed, 5,450 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 6 new sewer connections installed, 3 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

- 319 Grant Lynn Creek Project- We have sent a letter to all the residents of the Lynn Creek Watershed informing them of the grant opportunities. We have completed several septic tank pump outs, and are collaborating with Mohawk on one of the green infrastructure projects.
- The two inch galvanized line replacement continues utilizing city forces.
- Georgia Cumberland Academy Force Main & Lifts Station Project- Force Main contractor is on-site & working. C&S is on-site working on the Lift station. Project is approximately 85% complete
- Buc-ee's Water Main Relocation Project- Project is 95% complete. Utilities has to wait on road contractor to remove existing Johnson Lake Rd before we can complete project.
- The Water & Sewer Annual Unit Price Bid was received on October 30th. Contract was awarded to C&S Construction.

- During site construction of the City's Early Learning Center, a sewer main was found to be partially collapsed. Wastewater Collections Dept. made an emergency repair & Engineering provided construction drawings to completely replace the line. The main was replaced by C&S Construction with help from City crews. This project is complete.

Projects in Design & Development

- South Interceptor Flow Study
- Brittany Drive Standby Generator Grant
- Paul Lusk Lift Station Capacity Study
- Old Fairmount Hwy Sewer Line Extension

3) **Library**

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

B. Councilman Edwards submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 33 cases with 2 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$15,518
- Issued 22 warnings
- Investigated 17 highway accidents, 21 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 7
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 2
- Alarm responses - 194
- Miles patrolled: 39,177

2) **Municipal Court**

- Total Court cases- 195
- Court cases dropped-3
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 19
- Number of Probation cases- 1
- Failure to appear- 0
- Subpoenas served- 0

3) **Fire Department**

Fire Suppression Division

159 Total reported calls for service for the Suppression Division

Dispatched Calls

- 9 Fire Incidents (\$66,100.00 in estimated damage)
- 0 Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (NO FIRE)
- 98 Emergency Medical Services / Rescue (Injuries, Medical, or Fatality)

- 8 Hazardous Conditions Incidents (NO FIRE; Leaks, Spills, Electrical Hazards; All Other Hazardous Conditions without injuries)
- 10 Service Calls (Water Leak; Assist Other Agencies with Non-Emergency Calls)
- 24 Good Intent Calls (Smoke / Odor check; Investigation of Unknown Problem)
- 10 False Alarms or False Calls
- 0 Severe Weather & Natural Disaster
- 0 Special Incident Type (Citizen Complaint; Other)

Additional Fire Department Activities

- Completed routine Dept. maintenance and duties.
- Continued Participating in meetings on Covid-19 response protocols and issues with local agencies (by video conference)

Training Division

CFD completed 457 Total Man Hours of training during the month.

Training consisted of:

- 3 Live Fire Burns in acquired structures with Gordon County Fire
- Incident Reporting training on new ESO Reporting Software to be put in service early in 2021
- Apparatus Operator / Driver Training

Fire Inspections - Public Safety Education - Code Enforcement Division

88 Total Reported Activities / Inspections completed during the month.

Inspections / Enforcement Activities

- 9 Annual Inspection
- 2 New Business Inspections
- 27 Requested Inspections
- 12 Follow Up, Re-Inspections
- 2 Burn Site Inspections
- 2 Plan Reviews
- 0 Pre-Construction Meetings
- 0 Sprinkler Permits Issued
- 1 Fuel Tank Permit (Install, Removal or Service)
- 34 Consultations
- 0 Fire Drills
- 0 Illegal Burning Citations

Additional Inspection - Public Safety & Codes Division Activities

- Inspections attended Zoning / Annexation meeting.

4) **Safety Committee**

- The safety committee did not meet in the month of December.
 - Vehicle accidents: 0
 - Workers compensation: 2

C. Councilman Denmon submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

1. Completed 23 shop and 19 street dept. work orders.
2. Installed 4 new street signs.
3. Continued the annual leaf cleanup around town.
4. Picked up brush all around town.

Cemetery Department

1. Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
2. Supervised the opening and closing of 8 grave sites.
3. Sold 16 new grave spaces.

Parks Department

1. Completed 24 shop and 19 street dept. work orders.
2. Installed 5 new street signs.
3. Continued the annual leaf cleanup all over town.
4. Repaired a storm drain on Hunts Drive.

Animal Control

- Housed 18 dogs and 3 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 1
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 9
- Number of cats rescued: 3
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 7
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 12
- Number of bite cases: 1
- Citations issues: 0

2) **Recreation Department**

1. YOUTH SPORTS:

Soccer – We hosted the GRPA Class B/C State Soccer tournament December 4 and 5 for the u10 Girls divisions. There were 6 teams that participated in this 1 day event with an estimated economic impact of \$8,775.00.

Youth Basketball – Youth Basketball games began December 7. Thirty-six games were played December 7 – December 21. Our partnership with Calhoun City Schools allows us to be able to use the primary, elementary, and middle school gyms for practices and gyms. All gym space is maxed out for our basketball program.

2. FACILITY USAGE:

The following facilities were reserved throughout the month of December for Special Events:

Black/Gold Playground Pavilion – 1 Ratner Pavilion – 3
Soccer Complex – 14

3. WEBSITE USAGE:

CalhounRec.com	Facebook Page
Sessions – 881	Reached – 3,783
Users – 713	Engagements - 644
Page Views – 1,342	Posts - 12
Posts -10	

4. PARKS MAINTENANCE:

- 1- Prepped soccer fields for State Soccer Tournament
- 2- Touch up paint in Recreation Center, softball complex and Tennis Center
- 3- Mulched leaves throughout park
- 4- Removed leaves from walking trails
- 5- Winterized softball complex and Ratner pavilion
- 6- Winterized soccer complex

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

Calhoun – Gordon County United Way – Warm-up All-star Basketball Tournament – Feb. 11-13, 2021

Miracle Run – benefiting United Way Agencies Winners Club and Camp New Adventure United Way – March 20

6th Annual Calhoun Recreation Youth Classic Tournament – March 26-December 1, 2021

3) Downtown Development Authority

The DDA hosted the annual Moonlight Madness on December 18th. The DDA purchased and installed additional Christmas decorations in the historic district. The HPC approved of one COA, Synergy Home Care located at 110 North Wall Street. The DDA partnered with the Calhoun-Gordon County Library and had library boxes made by the Calhoun High School Construction Department. They will be installed beside the Depot gazebo soon.

D. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley submitted December reports as follows:

1) Electric Department

- Construction has begun on the new Calhoun Early Learning Academy at 380 Barrett Road.
- New underground construction continues with the new Townhomes at Millers Lane, Old Mills Condos.
- Construction continues on new residential housing Willow Brook phase 2 on Dews Pond Road.
- Continuing Streetlight LED upgrade around the City.

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED FOR DECEMBER:

• NEWLY CREATED	56
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	58
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	16
• STREET AND SECURITY LIGHTING-	8
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	13
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	7
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	15
• NEW METER SETS	10
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	4
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	205

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for December 2020 is estimated to be about 29 million kilowatt hours (kWh's). This is about 4 million kWh's more than December of 2019. Actual numbers will be released around Jan. 18th.

Sevier County Electrical System requested Mutual Aid after a devastating snow storm hit during Christmas. High winds and wet snow caused over 20,000 of our Tennessee neighbors to lose power during Christmas.

Electric Cities of Georgia mobilized the Cities of Calhoun, Dalton, LaGrange, Marietta and Crisp County to help restore power. The City of Calhoun's Electrical Department sent the crew of Alan McCormick, Nick Land, Colter Faith, Greg Dodd, Matt Rains and Nathan Stokes to help with the restoration in the Pigeon Forge / Gatlinburg area.

2) **Telecommunications**

- Installed internet service for two new customers.
- Completed installation of two point-to-point services.
- Finished construction to replace 2000 feet of fiber line on Johnson Lake Rd.
- Upgraded partner link from 1 gigabit to 10 gigabit providing bandwidth for customer growth.
- Added 100 gigabytes of hard drive space to billing server for a total of 700 gigabytes.
- Provided support for fake deposit scam investigation.

- Participated in online training for new server management software.
- Repaired two fiber drops; one cut by construction and one chewed by squirrel.
- Ordered replacement hard drive for telecom video recording system.
- Received new servers and started installation.
- One employee out last two weeks due to COVID illness.
- Started 8 and completed 12 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Generated usage reports for Electric Department
- Updated maps for parcel zoning, water lines, water meters and telecom.
- Updated fire pre-plans for Fire Department and physical addresses for Billing
- Trained Engineering in GIS water backflow process.
- Updated City and GIS web sites
- One employee worked from home for one week on COVID exposure protocol (unrelated to Telecom employee illness).
- City employee GIS login statistics
 - Total logins – 1146
 - Top three layers accessed
 - Water – 506
 - Metering – 190
 - Electric – 159

3) Building Inspections

- Issued 110 permits for an estimated cost of \$6,450,096, collected \$40,525 in permit fees. This included 20 new residential, 2 residential remodel, 1 new commercial, 4 commercial remodel, 1 industrial remodel, 17 residential plumbing, 14 residential electrical, 1 commercial plumbing, 23 residential HVAC, 3 commercial HVAC, 4 commercial electrical, and 1 industrial plumbing. 135 total inspections.

7. Public Hearing 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 zoning request from C-2 to Ind-G by Stanley Simpson for 4.782 acres off Travelers Path NE (CG41A-035).
- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.

- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that all were in favor of recommending the zoning change.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments. City Attorney Govignon stated that this zoning request was for a proposed use of a truck terminal with a private drive to serve the 4.782 acres and would remain a private drive as is does not meet the conditions of Chapter 82, Article II, Section 82-46, Base and Pavement Specifications, Major Collector (industrial) of the Calhoun Code of Ordinances. The constructed private drive would be sufficient for the current rezoning request, but remaining tract of approximately 17 acres would be limited to only a single building permit in the future. The presently constructed drive only contains the amount of public road dedication for 25 feet to be employed to obtain a building permit for the 4.782 acre tract, and the remaining tract would only be eligible for a single building permit without additional public road footage being provided.
- There being no other comments Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the zoning request.
- Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the zoning request of Ind-G. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. Old Business

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of a beer and wine package license request at a location of 1600 Dews Pond Road by Madan Patel (Ginger's Grocery). Mr. Patel will also serve as the store manager. Eligible for a public hearing January 25th.

9. New Business

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of R-1B (County zoning is R-3) by Susan French for 0.45 acre at a location of parcel GC55-008, which adjoins her city parcel (C55-006) at 109 Pine Hill Drive. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held February 4th and the public hearing February 8th.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a zoning change request from R-2 to C-2 by Johnathan Stone for 0.59 acre at a location of 104 Henderson Bend Road (Parcel C21-012). The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held February 4th and the public hearing February 8th.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer package license request at a location of 125 Red Bud Road by Mufti F. Islam DBA: A 1 Grocery, LLC. The proposed store manager is Mirza M. Baig. Mayor Palmer called for a motion to set the public hearing for February 8th. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made the motion. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer stated that a motion was needed to set qualifying fees for the 2021 General Municipal Election for City Council Posts 3 and 4 and Calhoun Board of Education Posts 1, 2 and 3 per the following recommendations:
- City Council - \$ 252.00
 - School Board - \$1.00

Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to set the qualifying fees as presented. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

Qualifying will be held at City Hall, 226 South Wall Street, beginning on Monday, August 16, 2021 and ending on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The hours for qualifying each day will be from 8:30 AM until 1:00 PM and from 2:00 PM until 4:30 PM. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

- E. Mayor Palmer called for a motion regarding Mayor Pro Tem for 2021. Councilman Denmon made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Crowley as Mayor Pro Tem for 2021. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- F. Mayor Palmer read the 2021 beer package license renewal for Alif 1133 Stores Inc. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the beer package renewal. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

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

11. **Work Reports**

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator had nothing to report.
- B. Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator had nothing to report.
- C. George Govignon, City Attorney had nothing to report.

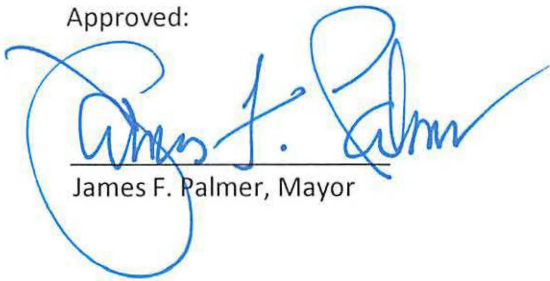
12. **Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed**

13. **Motion to return to General Session**

14. **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Approved:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

