

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
NOVEMBER 11, 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; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Major Randy Gallman

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 October 28, 2013 City Council Meeting. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. The Gordon County Youth Leadership 2013-2014 class was in attendance. The class includes 46 students from all four high schools in the County. The class is sponsored by the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce Leadership program. This is the twenty-first class and over 900 students have graduated from the program.
 - B. Being Veterans Day, Mayor Palmer recognized all current City employees who are veterans. Mayor Palmer stated that he was proud of our veteran employees and all of our troops for their hard work and sacrifices.
 - C. Announcement of the results of the November 5, 2013 general municipal election.
 - **Calhoun City Council Post 3-**
 1. Matt Barton- 396
 2. Ray Denmon- 308
 - **Calhoun City Council Post 4-** David Hammond
 - **Calhoun City School Board Post 1-** Alvin Long
 - **Calhoun City School Board Post 2-** Rhoda Washington
 - **Calhoun City School Board Post 3-** David Scoggins

- D. Mayor Palmer congratulated the Calhoun High School One Act play for winning the State title and Rachael Green was selected as best actress also. In addition, Mayor Palmer congratulated the Calhoun Lady Softball team for winning the State Championship.

6. Council Comments:

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Edwards gave the October report as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 529 cases with 4 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$72,342.34
- Issued 878 warnings
- Investigated 61 highway accidents, 27 private property accidents
- 1 serious injure and 2 fatalities
- Provided 98 escorts
- 1,662 incident reports
- Responded to 681 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 50,281
- Responded to 5,025 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 694
- Court cases dropped- 148
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 423
- Number of Probation cases- 53
- Probation Payments- \$19,246.00
- Probation Revocations- 18
- Failure to appear- 88
- Prisoner transports- 37

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Responded to 169 calls for service for the suppression division, 9 fire incidents for damages (\$30,602 in estimated fire damage)
- Responded to 107 medical service calls
- Responded to 10 hazardous conditions incidents
- Responded to 17 false alarms or false calls, 13 good intent
- Calhoun Fire and the LEPC coordinated a Safety and Health Fair with All Local and State Public Safety Agencies and the local Home Depot Store. A vehicle crash extrication demo with Life Force helicopter landing was the highlight of the event. Most Agencies had informational tents set up along with a "Kids Area" by Home Depot. Corporate Home Depot has expressed interest in sponsorship of the event in the future.
- The Fire Department had contact with 2,750 Children and 40 Senior Adults during all demos during Fire Safety Month.

Training Division

- Department completed 839 man hours of in house training.
- Training consisted of hose line deployment, vehicle extrication, and fire department supervision.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 90 total reported activities/inspections which included 11 annual inspections, 22 requested inspections, 7 follow-up or re-inspections, 1 illegal burn citation, 3 burn site inspections, and 38 consultations

5) Downtown Development Authority

- The Downtown Development Authority placed fall decorations in the Historic District of Downtown. The DDA and Young Farmers have also placed 12 scarecrows and 29 hay roll animals sponsored by local businesses.
- The Downtown Development Authority, several downtown businesses, and the Gordon County Young Farmers have been working together to bring Farm City Week to Downtown Calhoun once again this year. The hay roll farm animals and scarecrows are just some of the things in store for the week of November 21 – 28.

B. Councilman Barton gave the October report as follows:

1) Street Department

- Completed 9 shop and 25 street department work orders.
- Placed 10 new street signs.
- Hauled top soil to stock pile at Fain Cemetery.
- Completed paving 1,982 feet of Linda Lane using 966 tons of asphalt. We have now moved on to East May Street setting manholes and laying pipe for storm drainage. Next will be curb, gutters, and sidewalk.

2) Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 14 grave sites.
- Sold 12 new grave spaces.
- Worked 16 grave sites.

3) Animal Control

- Housed 17 dogs, and 12 cats
- Answered 66 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.
- Restoring antique mail cart for the Depot.
- Helped in putting out Farm City Week decorations.

5) **Safety Committee**

- Safety topic- hand truck and dollies safety practices
- Safety Inspection- Sewer Construction Departments
- Accidents: Vehicle Accident-1- Community Development; 2- Street Department
- Workers Comp: 2- Fire Department; 1- Police Department; 1- Library; 1- Street Department

6) **Recreation Department**

- GRPA 5TH DISTRICT AGENCY OF THE YEAR – The Calhoun Recreation Department was awarded the 2013 GRPA 5th District Class B Agency of the Year at the 5th District Annual Banquet on Wednesday, October 23.
- UPCOMING EVENTS:
Calhoun Recreation Department will be hosting the following events:
November 21 – GRPA 5th District Football Play-offs
December 7;14 – GRPA State 9-10 Tackle
- YOUTH SPORTS:

Youth Football – 2013 Youth Football regular season was completed on October 21. Calhoun Rec. vs. Gordon Co. Rec games were played on Saturday, October 26. Calhoun hosted the 9-10 games and the 7-8 games were played at Sonoraville. Calhoun Recreation teams won the City/County Championships in both the 7-8 and 9-10 divisions. The All-star teams will begin post season play on November 16. Calhoun Recreation will host district games on Thursday, November 21.

Youth Soccer – 2013 Fall Soccer league was completed on October 26. The All-Star teams will begin post season play on November 16.

Fall Adult Coed Softball League – The Fall Coed League was completed on October 29.

Youth Basketball – Registration for the 7-8 and 9-10 boys and girls was completed on November 7th. Registration for the 11-12; 13-14 and High School divisions will be held through November 14. A final report on basketball registration will be given next month.

C. Councilman Crowley gave the October report as follows:

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

- The Brittany Drive Expansion Project- The project is approximately 70% complete.
- Clarifier Mechanism Replacement Project- Expect to have the new mechanisms on site by late December.
- 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, which began on May 30th.
- The first phase of the Gordon County Fire Hydrant project is nearing completion.
- Design is complete for the 2" galvanized line replacement project.
- The design is 95% complete for the flocculation and sedimentation control project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant.
- Coosawattee Intake Screen Replacement- Received bids on October 22, 2013 with Atlas Manufacturing being the lowest bid at

\$199,750, which is just within our proposed budget of \$200,000.
These are replacing screens that are now 29 years old.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 302,160,000
- Daily average: 9,747,096
- Wells: 28,060,000
- Big Springs: 106,860,000
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 44.6
- Rainfall- 1.41"

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 3.412 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 70.

4) Water Distribution

- 13 Water connections, 30 water service leaks repaired, 29 water main leaks repaired, 9 water services changed from old water main to new main, 6 water meters changed for yearly testing, 12 yards or roadway edges repaired due to previous work, 40 utility locates called in for work orders, 419 utility locates responded to, and 129 misc. calls
- Began replacing 2" galvanized line along Amacanata Road with 8" ductile iron pipe.
- Began replacing 2" galvanized line along Baker Road with 6" ductile iron pipe.
- Installed 8" fire line connection on Pleasant Hill Road.

5) Waste Water Collection

- 1,750' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 288 utility locates completed, 3 lift station repairs completed, 6,200' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 75 manholes opened and inspected, 6 sanitary sewer services repaired

6) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 44 permits for an estimated cost of \$4,521,899.00, collected \$21,903.00 in permit fees. This included 2 new residential, 1 new commercial, 3 residential remodeling, 3 commercial remodeling, 1 industrial addition (Nourison), 7 commercial plumbing, 4 new residential and commercial HVAC, 4 residential electrical, 6 commercial electrical, 3 sign permits, and 132 total inspections.

D. Councilman Hammond gave the October report as follows:

1) Electric Department

- Work continues on the New High School / Middle School expansion.
- The relocation of the Power Lines necessary for the New Gordon County Career Academy along Hwy 53 Spur continues.
- Electrical Engineering continues on the Ga DOT Red Bud Road project.

- Electrical Engineering has begun for StreetScape Phase # 4
- Electric installations continues on the Dixie / Colormaster expansion.
- Electrical installation has begun on the Library Expansion with a new underground service and L.E.D. parking lot lighting.
- Christmas lights are going up. Crews are working on the weekends in high traffic areas.
- New Electric Record for October: the City Electrical load was 38,532,883 kWh, beating the old October record that was set in 2012 by 1,580,078 kWh. This is more than a 4% increase in Electrical usage for our community.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 111
- Completed and closed- 93
- Consisting of:
 - Capital construction- 4
 - Street and security lighting-61
 - Distribution Maintenance-2
 - Meter maintenance/replacement- 17
 - New customer meter sets- 15
 - Monthly total system locate tickets processed- 228

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Started construction on new Internet circuit.
- Built new billing server and assisted with vendor install. Server is ready for training classes.
- Worked with carrier to upgrade 200 Megabit circuit to Dalton.
- Setup phone system for city schools to receive voice mails in their emails.
- Installed security cameras at Water Construction
- Continued fiber reroute construction at Union Grove Road and I-75.
- Organized weekly work order flow committee meeting.
- Opened 20 and closed 17 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Upgraded software on server and computers to latest release.
- Working with Engineering to select modeling software and solving connectivity issues.
- Continue Fiber cable inventory to update GIS data maps
- Updated zoning maps
- Updated pre-fire plans for Fire Department
- Attending work order process committee meetings
- Updated addresses from changes in billing account data
- Updated City and GIS websites

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 regional commissions recently met as a state and discussed various topics such as the deepening of the Georgia ports from 42 feet to 47 feet. This will allow bigger ships in and out of the ports. The Savannah and Brunswick harbors are a major economic boon to the state of Georgia. Brunswick is the second largest port in the nation in bringing in automobiles. Savannah is the second largest port for container shipping such as merchandise to Walmart and shipping out products. The largest quantity of product shipped out of Georgia is poultry.

5) Tom B. David Airport

- The airport is the 7th largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia. Also, the airport has a 6,000 feet runway where the average runway length for Georgia rural airports is 5,000 feet. This allows larger jets to land at our airport. There is also a plan to build a parallel taxiway to increase frequency of landing and takeoffs.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

A. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for a variance request by RaceTrac Petroleum, Inc. store #1043 at a location of 665 Hwy 53 East. The variance request is to vary from the required 25 feet setback from a side or rear property line or a street right-of-way for underground fuel storage tanks to a 16 feet setback.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Pro Tem Edwards reported that the Zoning Advisory Board met on November 7th and recommended that the variance be granted.
- The zoning ordinance requires that an underground storage tank be placed not less than 25 feet from a street right-of-way or a side/rear property line. The preliminary plans and hardship letter affirms that the distance from the tanks is 92 feet to the nearest lane of travel on Highway 53, providing reasonable separation from traffic.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. David Archibald, Project Coordinator with Harkleroad and Associates spoke on behalf of RaceTrac. Mr. Archibald discussed that RaceTrac has been in business for over 70 years and are constantly evaluating best safety practices. RaceTrac has determined that the safest place to locate the underground storage tanks is in front of their stores. Placing the tanks in the front of the site provides the transport trucks ample space to maneuver, park, and unload the product and keeps separation between them and pedestrian and car traffic. The proposed building is 6,000 square feet of retail space and it will have 24 fueling stations. With that much retail space it is essential to keep the tanker trucks separated from the pedestrian and car traffic coming in and out of the fueling stations and to the store.

- Councilman Hammond asked if the proposed store would look similar to the RaceTrac in Jasper in which Mr. Archibald answered yes. Mr. Archibald stated that the Jasper store was the busiest RaceTrac in the state of Georgia and he hoped to bring that quality of service to Calhoun.
- Councilman Crowley asked about whom with the state will have to approve the project. Mr. Archibald stated that the state fire marshal will have to inspect and give final approval for the underground fuel tanks.
- There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

B. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for a Beer, Wine, Liquor package request by Jayeshkumar Patel DBA: Liquor Mart at a location of 541 Hwy 53 East.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Cowley made a motion to approve the beer, wine, liquor package request. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

C. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for revision and amendments to the Zoning: Article 10 Sign Ordinance.

- Mr. Peterson stated that all signs and advertising requirements have been met.
- Attorney Govignon stated this is an effort to restructure and modernize the current sign ordinance. The new sign ordinance will address issues such as regulating electronic signs and addressing concerns over the use of banners. It is also purposed to be more user friendly by incorporating more sign regulations into one document. Previously, the Downtown Business District and Historic District had additional restrictions, but they were not included in the sign ordinance. This update includes all the regulations and restrictions concerning signs and combines them into one document.
- Mayor Palmer asked for public comments. There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Mayor Palmer stated that there would be another public hearing on November 25th and then it would be eligible for adoption.

8. Old Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer announced that the Georgia Department of Public Safety has approved the City's application to use speed detection devices on Curtis Parkway from State Route 53 to State Route 156 at a speed limit of 40mph. This also includes the Calhoun Elementary/Primary School Zone from Wildwood Circle to Professional Court at a speed limit of 35mph. Councilman Crowley made a motion

to approve the enforcement of the speed limits by use of speed detection devices. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- B. Mayor Palmer discussed the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Drinking Water State Revolving Loan documents. The Loan allows the City to borrow up to \$2,121,643 to help finance sewer projects. The scope of work projects includes King Street sewer replacement, Pisgah area sewer replacement, and improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The loan is set up similar to a line of credit and will only be drawn upon based on utility project needs. Also, every utility project that utilizes the GEFA loan funds must be approved by the Mayor and Council on an individual basis. Councilman Crowley made a motion to allow the Mayor to sign the GEFA loan document resolution. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Mayor Palmer stated that the first sewer project of necessity was the King Street sewer replacement, but that project would not start until next year.

9. New Business:

- A. Councilman Hammond made a motion to move the second December City Council meeting from December 23rd to December 16th. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Mayor Palmer also announced that City of Calhoun offices will be closed on December 24th and December 25th for Christmas.
- B. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a proposed resolution amending Freeport exemption regulations for the City of Calhoun. The proposed resolution increases the current exemption rate of 20% to 40% in all three Freeport categories and would be effective starting January 1, 2014. Attorney Govignon stated that the additional exemption was authorized under the 1994 referendum approved by the citizens. The referendum allows the Council to increase the Freeport exemption in 20% increments up to a 100% exemption. Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the public hearing for November 25th. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer read an alcohol- beer and wine package manager change request for Food Lion at a location of 1512 Red Bud Road. The prior manager was Brian Morris and the proposed manager is Michael Shaw. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the manager change request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer read a pawn shop manager change request by Jennifer Thomas DBA: Georgia Auto Pawn, Inc. at a location of 164 West Belmont Drive. The prior manager was Jennifer Thomas and the proposed manager is Michael Brandon Coker. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the manager change request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer read an alcohol-beer, wine, and liquor pouring manager change request by Longhorn Steakhouse at a location of 1301 Lovers Lane Road. The prior manager was Jonathan Miller and the proposed manager is Keith Rauch. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the manager change request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- F. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a beer package request by Priyanidhi, Inc. DBA: Calhoun Food and Tobacco at a location of 901 North Wall Street. The proposed manager is Romesh Patel. Councilman Hammond made a motion to set

the public hearing on December 9th. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- G. Mayor Palmer read a parade request from Saint Clements Catholic Church for the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession on a route of: begin at the Calhoun Community Church parking lot (222 WC Bryant Parkway), to SR 41 north, left onto SR 53, Court St. and down the 53 Spur to the Civic Auditorium on Dec. 8, 2013 at 12:30 P.M. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the parade request. Councilman Crowley gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- H. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a pawn shop license request by Kent Popham DBA: Complete Cash Holdings, Inc. at a location of 901 North Wall Street. The proposed manager is Patricia Stanley. Councilman Crowley made a motion to set the public hearing for December 9th. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- I. Mayor Palmer reviewed a recommendation of a bid award for the 29 year old Coosawattee water screen river intakes. This is a budgeted item and there were four total bidders. The low bidder from Atlas Manufacturing, Inc. came in at \$199,750 and based upon Peoples and Quigley Consulting Engineers review the bid is acceptable and Utilities recommends the contract be awarded to Atlas Manufacturing. Councilman Crowley made a motion to approve the low bid from Atlas Manufacturing in the amount of \$199,750. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- J. First reading of a beer and wine package request by Balvir Kaur DBA: Quick Stop at a location of 461 Harris Beamer Road. Councilman Crowley made a motion to set the public hearing for December 9th. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- K. Mayor Palmer conducted a first reading of the following Business License renewals: They will be eligible for adoption at the next meeting.

Pawn Shop

- o Melissa Tomlinson for Title Exchange & Pawn of Calhoun Inc
- o Larry E. Knight for Corner Pawn
- o Heriberto Cortes for Goldland Centenario Jewelry
- o Nancy P. Long for D & S Pawn Shop
- o Bridgett Jones for National Title Pawn of Calhoun
- o Kesha Skurla for Instant Car Loans on Car Title
- o Brandon Coker for Georgia Auto Pawn Inc
- o Joseph Summerfield for Gold N Guns

Taxi Cab

- o Moises A. Robleto for Taxi Express
- o Isidro Sanchez Barrera for Taxi El Aguila
- o Jose A. Salaices for Charrito's Taxi
- o Herver Antonio Espinoza for Taxi El Quetzal
- o Rolando Gonzalez for Taxi Tacana

- Susan Renee Wise for Calhoun Cab

Beer Package

- Ram Chandra Thapa for ABC Convenience
- Raymond J. Brown for J J's Package Store
- Ravi J. Patel for Little Giant
- Yogesh Patel for Food Mart & Tobacco
- Phil Beamer for Phil Beamer Distributor
- Jose L. Estrada for El Sol Hispanic Grocery

Beer and Wine Package

- Anant K Patel for N Wall BP
- Jamie Bearden for Ingles Food Market
- Kevin Hankins for Kroger
- Steven Moore for CVS Pharmacy Inc
- Michael Boling for Wal-Mart
- Davis Michael Bernier, Jr for Food Outlet, IGA
- James McConnell for R & R Grocery
- Michael Shaw for Food Lion
- Leslie Renfro for Kangaroo Express
- Terry Vanderbogart for Rite Aid #11828 located at 1101 Red Bud Rd

Beer and Liquor Pouring

- Carlos Aldama for El Rayos

Beer, Wine and Liquor Pouring

- Juana Naranjo for El Pueblito Mexican Restaurant
- Ian Wonderling for Ruby Tuesday
- Keith Rauch for Longhorn Steakhouse
- Jorge M. Alvarez for El Nopal Calhoun, Inc

Beer, Wine and Liquor Package

- Brijesh Patel for Red Bud Liquor
- Dilip S. Patel for ABC Liquor
- Kamlesh R. Patel for Calhoun Liquor
- Yogesh Patel for Party Liquor

Combination Beer Package/Pouring at Private Club

- o Terry B. Henderson for American Legion Post 47


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:



James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk