



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ed Moyer, Mayor Pro Tem
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilmember
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilmember

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; George Govignon, City Attorney; Christy Nicholson, Calhoun Police; Nathan Saylor, Fire Department; and Todd Holbert, Fire Department.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**
Welcome
Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
Invocation
Mayor Palmer 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**
Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**
Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of August 25, 2025. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

A. Mayor Palmer announced that the City of Calhoun has proposed no change in the millage rate for 2025. The proposed millage rate remains 3.5, the same rate as set in 2024. State law requires this to be advertised as a tax increase, since the proposed rate is higher than the rollback rate. Public hearings on the tax increase to be held at the Depot Community Room, 109 South King Street on September 8, 2025 at 11:30 A.M. and at the Depot Community Room, 109 South King Street at 6:30 P.M. There will also be a third public hearing at the Depot Community Room, 109 South King Street on September 22, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 3.5 mills, an increase of 0.26 mills over the rollback rate.

6. **Council Comments**

A. Councilmember Palazzolo submitted August reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Current Electric Department Engineering and Construction:

The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.

ENGINEERING

New townhomes at Spring Valley (177 units)

Chick-Fil-A remodel

New development on Peters St (102 homes)

CONSTRUCTION

New field house and hitting facility at Calhoun High School

Piedmont Street Pole Upgrades

New townhomes on Newtown Rd (Ridgeview) (65 units)

New townhomes at Old Mill (40 units)

New McDonalds on Red Bud Rd

New townhomes on Professional Pl (30 units)

Salacoa Subdivision (249 units)

The Ridge at Calhoun (236 units) (18 left to energize)

Continued system upgrades for new growth and system reliability

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:

• NEWLY CREATED	95
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	72
•	
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	24
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	32
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	7
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	10
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	3

• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	13
• NEW METER SETS	4
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	108
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	313

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for AUGUST 2025 is about 34.5 million kilowatt hours (kWh's).

2) Telecommunications

- Setup and installed Wi-Fi network at the water construction building.
- Worked on backup and replication server updates.
- Worked on Munis Server updates.
- Completed updates on our virtual server software.
- Ran update on Police Department Firewall appliance.
- Meetings with ATT about disconnecting the City and School's old copper telephone lines.
- Setup and installed 7 new laptops with docking stations.
- Troubleshooted a number of customer's internet connections.
- Worked on Acelecom contract agreement for data center rack space lease.
- Submitted 4 quotes for new dark fiber/internet customers.
- Setup and installed 1 new internet customers.
- Completed a number of 811 fiber locates.
- Opened 17 work orders and closed 16 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Court case data discovery
- 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 114 permits for an estimated cost of \$4,753,695, collected \$36,743 in permit fees. This included 16 new residential, 5 residential remodel, 0 new commercial, 2 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 1 industrial remodel, 16 residential plumbing, 26 residential electrical, 14 residential HVAC, 1 commercial plumbing, 4 commercial electrical, 0 commercial HVAC, 1 industrial plumbing, and 3 industrial electrical. 281 total inspections.

4) Library

- There are 12,830 library card holders, 5,847 library visitors, and 6,322 total circulation.

- There were 321 story time attendance, 309 adult program attendance, 100 new users, 1,438 e-books, 2,283 audio books, 497 computer logins, and 4,130 Facebook visits.

B. Mayor Palmer submitted August reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 386,400,000
- Daily average: 11,595,691
- Wells: 98,770,000
- Big Springs: 71,120,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 47.90%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 47.90%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 46.43%
 - Rainfall for August – 4.30”

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 4.425 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 3, average suspended effluent of 9, and an average COD of 60.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 372 work orders completed, 26 new water connections, 28 water service leaks repaired, 23 water main leaks repaired, 2 water services changed to new main lines, 130 meter changes, 53 utility locates called in for work orders, 956 utility locates responses.
- 1,700 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 569 utility locates completed, 18,200 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 2 new sewer connections installed, 29 sanitary sewer connections installed by contractors, 3 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

Projects Under Construction

- Brittany Dr & Water Booster Stations Standby Generator Project – This project consists of installing a stationary and portable generator at the Brittany Dr WTP for emergency standby power, and retrofitting 5 water booster stations to accept the portable generator when it isn’t needed at the plant. All components for this project have arrived, and construction is now underway.
- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project – This project consists of improving an older segment of our sewer system to reduce I&I and free up additional capacity of this sub-basin. The scope will include upgrading approx. 4,500’ of sewer main from a 12 inch to 15 inches, and replacing an additional 1,500’ of 12-inch pipe. Material for this project is now arriving, and construction is underway.
- GDOT SR 53 & Brown Lee Mtn. Water Relocation Project – This project is now underway and consists of consolidating, relocating, and upsizing

two different water lines to accommodate highway improvements near the intersection.

- Comprehensive Nutrient Optimization Plan (CNOP), which is a regulatory requirement for NPDES permit compliance at our Wastewater Treatment facility. The program aims to raise awareness of nutrient loading in our collections and treatment processes, while evaluating options for reducing nutrient loads without installing new technologies, retrofitting our wastewater treatment plant, and investing significant amounts of money. This project has been completed and submitted to the GA EPD.

Projects in Design & Development

- New Fire Tower Water Tank Project – Surveying Completed.
- Water 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. Material for this project has been ordered, and a large portion has been delivered.
- Engineering for Spring Valley Sewer Phase II Rehabilitation Project
- The Engineering Department is actively working on 6 plan reviews, along with 19 inspections of developments and projects that are progressively under construction.

C. Councilmember Denmon submitted August reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

- Completed 28 shop and 27 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 6 new street signs.
- Repaired utility cuts and potholes around town using 21 tons of asphalt.
- Cut and removed trees on Bowling Industrial Way.

Cemetery

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 8 grave sites.
- Sold 6 new grave space.

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 43 dogs and 17 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 17
- Number of cats adopted: 3
- Number of dogs rescued: 6
- Number of cats rescued: 6
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 12
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 1
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 0
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issued: 0

2) **Recreation Department**

FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION – Registration for fall sports concluded in August for Football, Cheerleading, Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Cross Country , and adult softball. A total of 807 youth participants for the Fall programs.

Registration Numbers:

Football – 168 participants

Cheerleading – 51 participants

Soccer – 463 participants

Girls Volleyball – 84 participants

Cross-Country – 41 participants

Football Practices began – August 7

Soccer Practices began – August 18

Volleyball Practices began – August 7

Youth Football Opening Day – September 8

Cross-Country Opening Day – September 6

Youth Soccer Opening Day – September 8

Girls Volleyball Opening Day – September 2

Fall Adult Softball - There are 8 teams registered to participate in the Fall league. The league will begin games September 15.

SPECIAL EVENT:

Bark in the Park: Bark in the Park was held Saturday, August 23. There were 22 dogs that participated in the planned events including poster dog for 2026. Paw Angels brought out several dogs that were available for adoption. There were 2 vendors set up and dog enthusiasts enjoyed the morning with their pets. Donations of dog food, towels, treats were received by those that attended this event.

RENTALS – The following facilities were reserved throughout the month for special events:

Playground Pavilion – 4 events
Recreation Center Meeting Room – 3 events
Community Room – 3 events
Ratner Pavilion – 2 events

POOL –

The pool closed on August 7 for the season.
Pool Parties – 10 parties

TENNIS

Combo 18 and over; 40 plus leagues -42 participants
UTR Tournament – August 2 – 12 participants
Heritage Baptist Tournament – August 11-18 – 72 participants

PARKS –

The following tasks were completed throughout the month:

- Parks mowed and groomed weekly
- Prepared practice fields for football and soccer
- Pressure washed soccer and softball buildings
- Prepared high school softball field for games
- Prepared middle school softball field for games
- Prepared fields for Friday Night One Pitch Tournaments
- Sprayed football complex bleachers for wasps
- Groomed dog park
- Pool maintenance daily

WEBSITE -

CalhounRec.com	Facebook
2,305 Sessions	8,680 -Posts Engagements
2 Posts	25 - Posts
1,532users	21,982 - reaches
	4,211 page views
	87,438 – Page Views

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

Downtown Events & Programming

Heavale Brewing Co. will host its first big event, Oktoberfest, on Saturday, September 13th at noon on Oothcalooga Street. We're excited to support this milestone! In partnership with the CVB, we've placed a digital billboard on I-75 (designed in-house), are running digital ads, and have created a flyer (with a limited print run). We're wishing them a successful inaugural event!

Rocktober Fest planning is ongoing.

We've also received a special event permit request from Andy Baxter for the 2026 Baxter Dean Runway Show on Sunday, May 3rd. The event will take place

on the short section of Court Street (Wall Street and Park Avenue remain open) from 12–9 pm. Plans include 2–3 food trucks, 8 vendor tents, and live music. The DDA-approved permit application is attached. This event does not include alcohol sales.

Downtown Calhoun Farmers Market

Our Fall Finale is set for Saturday, September 13th, and we're going out with a bang! Ricney Farms—who also helps with our downtown fall décor—will bring heirloom pumpkins, hay bales, cornstalks, and giant mums. Vendors are bringing their best fall goods, and we'll have a Belgian waffle food truck on-site. Fingers crossed for a crisp fall morning!

D. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer submitted August reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 303 cases with 7 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$39,336
- Issued 421 warnings
- Investigated 60 highway accidents, 32 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 4
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 0
- Alarm responses - 90
- Miles patrolled: 47,031

2) **Municipal Court**

- Citations from Police Department-306
- Court cases docketed- 303
- Probation cases assigned- 10
- Probation revocations- 1
- Bench warrants-2
- Failure to appear- 31

3) **Fire Department**

Suppression Division

- 221 Total Calls for Service to Include:
 - 5 – Fire Calls
 - 147 – Medical Calls
 - 6 – Hazardous Conditions Calls (No Fire)
 - 7 – Service Calls
 - 56 – False Alarms or False Calls
 - 0 – Severe Weather and Natural Disaster

Department Response Times

- Turnout Time – 1 minute 50 seconds
- Travel Time – 3 minutes 41 seconds
- Total Response Time – 5 minutes and 31 seconds

Department Events

- August 1st, 2025 – CPR Course at Calhoun Early Learning Academy (20 People)
- August 7th, 2025 – Division Chief Saylor, Lieutenant Underwood, and Inspector McMahan completed an Incident Management for Hazmat Emergencies course taught at Polk County EMA.
- August 15th, 2025 – Lieutenant Hall completed the Swift Water Rescue Technician course taught at the Cartersville Fire Department
- On August 17th, 2025, E-31 Crew of Lieutenant Jaron Gilbert, Firefighter Tyler Richardson, and Firefighter Logan Fowler responded to a local residence in reference to a female patient having difficulty breathing. On arrival, the patient was found to be apneic and pulseless. This crew, with the assistance of Advent Health EMS, began life-saving care to the patient following our Cardiac Arrest Protocol. This included compressions with artificial ventilation, administration of the LUCAS Device, and insertion of an advanced airway. Care continued into the driveway of the residence, where the patient regained a pulse. The patient was transported to Advent Health Gordon and would later be transferred to a higher-level care facility for continued care and treatment.
- August 25th, 2025 – Battalion Chief Green and Lieutenant Benton completed an Emergency Operations Center / Incident Command Course taught at Whitfield County EMA.
- August 25th, 2025 – FF Cantrell, FF Dodd, FF Fowler, FF Holcomb, Inspector McMahan, FF Peach, FF Sims, FF Thayer, and FF White completed an NPQ Apparatus Operator Course taught by the Calhoun Fire Department.
- August 28th, 2025 – Battalion Chief Green and Lieutenant Benton completed an ICS 300 Incident Command Systems for Expanding Incident Course that was taught at Whitfield County EMA.
- August 28th, 2025 – CPR Course at Fountains of Calhoun (17 People)

Inspections Division

- 45 – Total inspections for the month.
- Inspector McMahan completed 104 Hours of continuing education training this month.

Training Division

- 2023.15 Hours – Total training hours for the month.

- 10794.81 Hours – Total training hours for the year.
- August 26th, 2025 – Division Chief Saylor completed his Master's Degree in Fire Executive Leadership with a focus in Human Resource Management.

September Upcoming Events

- September 2nd, 2025 – NPQ Aerial Apparatus Operator Course
- September 2nd, 2025 – GPSTC Acting Officer in Charge of the Fire Service Course
- September 2nd, 2025 – GPSTC Introduction to Fire Inspections Basic Principles and Practices
- September 5th, 2025 – GBI Grand Opening / Open House Event
- September 6th, 2025 – North Georgia Fair Patriots Day Parade
- September 8th, 2025 – State Office of EMS Advanced EMT Course
- September 9th, 2025 – BATTIQ – Awareness and Response to Battery Emergencies Course
- September 9th, 2025 – TIME TaskForce Traffic Incident Management Course
- September 11th, 2025 – TIME TaskForce Traffic Incident Management Course
- September 16th, 2025 – GSAR Quarterly Training Exercise
- September 17th, 2025 – GSAR Quarterly Training Exercise
- September 17th, 2025 – EMA Regional Meeting
- September 18th, 2025 – LEPC Meeting and Fire Extinguisher Training
- September 22nd, 2025 – Transitional and Intrapersonal Leadership Training
- September 23rd, 2025 – Unity Run
- September 24th, 2025 – Public CPR Course
- September 25th, 2025 – Public CPR Course
- September 26th, 2025 – Public CPR Course
- September 27th, 2025 – Public CPR Course

4) Safety Committee

Margaret Boyd attended the LEAN (Large Entity Annual Conference) in Athens, Georgia, on August 23-25 to learn updated Safety policies and guidelines from OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and NHTS (National Highway Traffic Safety). This information is shared at our committee meeting to help keep our employees safe in the workplace.

A safety inspection was performed at the Calhoun Library on August 19, 2025, by Margaret Boyd and Mathew McHugh. They are getting new windows and have been doing some internal updates.

- Vehicle accidents: 2 – 1 Electric, 1 Police
- Workers' compensation: 1 – Police Officer injury due to vehicle accident

7. Zoning Hearings and Comments

8. Other Hearings and Comments

A. Public hearing of an ordinance to amend certain sections Part II – Code of Ordinances, adding a new section pertaining to License, Taxation, Miscellaneous Business Regulations, and Special Sprinkler and Fire safety Regulations for Personal Care Homes and Community Living Arrangements.

- 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 Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning ordinance amendment.
- Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to adopt the ordinance as submitted. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Public hearing of a beer and wine pouring request, at a location of 106 North Wall Street by Cassie's on Wall Street. Ms. Reynolds is the owner of the business and will also serve as the store manager.

- 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. Councilmember Palazzolo stated that she is recusing due to being the applicant's landlord.
- Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the alcohol request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the alcohol request. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with both voting aye. Motion approved.

C. Public hearing of a beer and wine package request, at a location of 1600 Dews Pond Road, by Dews Pond Venture LLC. Aryn Punjani is the owner, and Lenin Potamparambil is the proposed store manager.

- 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 Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the alcohol request.
- Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the alcohol request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

9. **Old Business**

10. **New Business**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a rear setback variance request of five feet, to vary from the required 20 foot setback to a 15 foot setback, for lots 1-22 on 9.57 acres at a location of 187 New Town Road, by David Fowler Construction, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 9th and the public hearing October 13th.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an Ordinance Amendment regarding the Department of Community Affairs new Georgia State Minimum Standard Building Codes with new Georgia State Amendments which will become mandatory January 1, 2026. The public hearing will be held on September 22nd.
 - 1) 2026 Georgia Amendments to the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code
 - 2) 2026 Georgia Amendments to the 2023 National Electrical Code
 - 3) 2024 International Residential Code with Georgia Amendments and only Appendix BO (Existing buildings and structures) and Appendix CA (Sizing and capacities of gas piping)
 - 4) 2024 International Building Code with Georgia Amendments
 - 5) 2024 Existing Building Code with Georgia Amendments
 - 6) 2024 International Mechanical Code with Georgia Amendments
 - 7) 2024 International Fuel Gas Code with Georgia Amendments
 - 8) 2024 International Plumbing Code with Georgia Amendments
 - 9) 2024 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code with Georgia Amendments
 - 10) 2024 International Fire Code and Georgia Amendments
 - 11) 2024 International Property Maintenance Code and Georgia Amendments
- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer package request, at a location of 960 North Wall Street, by Belwood Investment USA LLC D/B/A Calhoun Food Mart. Mohammad Asif, the owner, will also serve as the store manager. Eligible for a public hearing October 13th.
- D. Request from the Telecommunications Department for consideration of a Collocation Agreement with Acelecom GA LLC, to place equipment and to interconnect with the city's telecommunications network at a location of 118 North Louise Avenue. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer read a request from the Purchasing Department to surplus a 2019 Dodge Charger no longer used by the Police Department. VIN#47495 Mileage: 62,335. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the surplus request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- F. Mayor Palmer read a request to allow City Administrator Worley to sign an agreement with RaLin Construction Company for the Calhoun Depot construction project. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- G. Mayor Palmer read a Special Event request from Andy Baxter for the 2026 Baxter Dean Runway Show on Sunday May 3, 2026. This will require the closure of the section of Court Street from Wall Street to Park Avenue beginning at 12:00 pm. through 10:00 pm. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the special event and road closure request, pending GDOT approval. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

11. Other Written Items Not on the Agenda

12. Work Reports

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

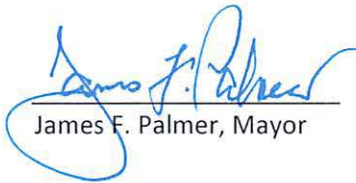
13. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

14. Motion to return to General Session

15. Motion to Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Council, Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Paul Worley, City Administrator

