



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: **James F. Palmer, Mayor**
George R. Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem
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; and Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**

Welcome

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

Invocation

Mayor Pro Tem Crowley 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 September 14, 2020 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 August 24, 2020. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer announced that the first two public hearings on the 2020 proposed millage rate were held today at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Depot Community

Room. The third and final public hearing will be held on September 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Depot Community Room.

- B. Mayor Palmer announced that the 2020 Census deadline is September 30th. Census Enumerators continue to survey door-to-door for all residences that have not responded online. To complete the Census online go to my2020census.gov. He stressed the importance of Census from its effect on the school system to government representation.
- C. Mayor Palmer read a proclamation declaring 2020 the William Laurens Hillhouse 2020 Centenary Memorial Year.

6. Council Comments

- A. Councilwoman Palazzolo submitted August reports as follows:

- 1) Water and Sewer Operations

- Water Treatment Plant**

- Total gallons withdrawn: 337,260,000
 - Daily average: 10,879,354
 - Wells: 71,470,000
 - Big Springs: 61,040,000
 - % produced by Brittany Drive: 39.20%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 36.22%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 41.28%
 - Rainfall for November – 3.17"

- Waste Water Treatment Plant**

- Treated a daily average of 8.201 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 12, and an average COD of 63.

- Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection**

- 341 work orders completed, 39 new water connections, 37 water service leaks repaired, 22 water main leaks repaired, 0 water services changed to new main lines, 122 meter changes, 74 utility locates called in for work orders, 674 utility locates responses.
 - 2,100 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 416 utility locates completed, 4,500 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 10 new sewer connections installed, 3 sanitary sewer services repaired.

- 2) Water and Sewer Construction

- Projects Under 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 1 septic tank pump out, and have several more scheduled.
 - The two inch galvanized line replacement continues utilizing city forces.
 - S.R. 156 Water Main Relocation (GDOT/ RR Bridge Replacement @ Ranger) – Project is complete & in – service.

- Peters Street Phase II Water and Sewer Relocations – water & sewer relocation is complete.
- Georgia Cumberland Academy Force Main & Lifts Station Project- Force Main contractor is on-site & working. Engineering is ordering materials for the lift station.
- Buc-ee’s Water Main Relocation Project- Materials have been ordered and delivered to site. Contractor is on site & working.

Projects in Design & Development

- South Interceptor Flow Study
- Brittany Drive Standby Generator Grant

3) Library

- There are 11,023 library card holders, 0 library visitors, and 409 total circulation.
- There were 0 story time attendance, 0 adult program attendance, 13 new users, 1,047 e-books, 1,068 audio books, 0 computer logins, and 12,421 Facebook visits.
- Mayor Palmer stated that the library was installing glass enclosures at all face-to-face service areas for staff and public protection. After construction of the enclosures is completed the library will move to phase three and limited numbers of visitors will be allowed to enter the building.

B. Councilman Edwards submitted August reports as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 253 cases with 7 DUI’s
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$16,621.00
- Issued 190 warnings
- Investigated 54 highway accidents, 31 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 4
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 1
- Alarm responses - 203
- Miles patrolled: Unavailable

2) Municipal Court

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

3) Fire Department

Fire Suppression Division

189 Total reported calls for service for the Suppression Division

Dispatched Calls

- 1 Fire Incidents (\$25,000.00 in Estimated damage)
- 0 Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (NO FIRE)
- 133 Emergency Medical Services / Rescue (Injuries, Medical, or Fatality)
- 8 Hazardous Conditions Incidents (NO FIRE; Leaks, Spills, Electrical Hazards; All Other Hazardous Conditions without injuries)
- 2 Service Calls (Water Leak; Assist Other Agencies with Non-Emergency Calls)
- 27 Good Intent Calls (Smoke / Odor check; Investigation of Unknown Problem)
- 16 False Alarms or False Calls
- 0 Severe Weather & Natural Disaster
- 1 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).
- A new Thermal Imaging Camera with the latest imaging technology was purchased with budget funds and placed into service on the new Pierce Pumper.
- Members of our department deployed with GSAR Task Force 6 to search for a missing female in Pickens County the missing female was found safe and in good health.

Training Division

CFD completed 601 Total Man Hours of training during the month.

Training consisted of: Aerial Operations, Engine Company Operations, Communications, Fire Streams, Firefighter Safety and Survival, Hoseline Management, Rope Training

Fire Inspections - Public Safety Education - Code Enforcement Division

101 Total Reported Activities / Inspections completed during the month.

Inspections / Enforcement

- 20 Annual Inspection
- 3 New Business Inspections
- 27 Requested Inspections
- 15 Follow Up, Re-Inspections
- 0 Burn Site Inspections
- 4 Plan Reviews
- 0 Pre-Construction Meetings
- 0 Sprinkler Permits Issued
- 0 Fuel Tank Permit (Install, Removal or Service)
- 32 Consultations
- 1 Fire Drills

0 Illegal Burning Citations

Additional Inspection - Public Safety & Codes Division Activities
Inspections worked on Zoning / Annexation items.

4) **Safety Committee**

- The safety committee did not meet in the month of August.
 - Vehicle accidents: 0
 - Workers compensation: 4

5) **Schools**

- The old East side campus on Barrett Road is now empty and construction will soon begin on the new Early Learning Center.

C. Mayor Palmer submitted August reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

1. Completed 12 shop and 30 street dept. work orders.
2. Installed 8 new street signs.
3. Repaired utility cuts and pot holes using 12 tons of asphalt.
4. Replaced a section of sidewalk on 2nd Avenue.

Cemetery Department

1. Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
2. Supervised the opening and closing of 14 grave sites.
3. Sold 11 new grave spaces.

Parks Department

1. The grounds crew picked up litter, mowed, trimmed bushes, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
2. The maintenance crew maintained designated buildings downtown.
3. Painted safety rails and posts on sidewalks.

Animal Control

- Housed 18 dogs and 19 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 1
- Number of cats adopted: 1
- Number of dogs rescued: 9
- Number of cats rescued: 11
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 4
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 19
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issues: 1

2) **Recreation Department**

1. **FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION** – Registration for fall sports concluded in August for Football, Cheerleading, Soccer, and Girls Volleyball.

Registration Numbers:

Football – 179 participants

Cheerleading-35 participants

Soccer – 200 participants

Girls Volleyball – 35 participants

Football Practices began – August 15

Soccer Practices began – August 22

Volleyball Practices began – August 20

Youth Football Opening Day – September 12

Youth Soccer Opening Day – September 14

Girls Volleyball – September 8

Final numbers for registration were down 167 participants in all fall youth sports.

Fall Adult Softball – Registration began August 10. There are 6 teams registered to participate in the Fall league.

Stars – Stars will begin again September 28. Mayor Palmer stated these are monthly meeting for special needs children.

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

Playground Pavilion -8 events

Ratner Pavilion – 10 events

Recreation Center

Meeting Room – 2 events

Community Room – 1 events

Gym – 1

POOL -

General Admission – 215 –pool closed on weekdays August 12. Closed for season August 29

3. **TENNIS**

EVTA and STA Flex League Play

Mixed Doubles and MXS>40 League Play

MAP Tennis – Saturdays

League Play – Mon – Fri – 14 courts 7:00pm – 9:00pm; Sat. 10:00am – 2:00pm

4. **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 1, 2 and 4 for Friday Night One Pitch Tournament
- Weeded flower beds at new complex
- Sprayed Football Complex Bleachers for wasp
- Groomed grounds at Recreation Center and Tennis Center weekly
- Pool Maintenance daily
- Laid out and painted middle school football practice field

5. WEBSITE USAGE:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| CalhounRec.com | Facebook |
| 1,640 – Sessions | 1,492 – Post Engagements |
| 20 – Post | 16 - Posts |
| 713 - Users | 5,802 - reached |
| 3,652 – Page Views | 346 – Page Views |

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT:

October 3 – Family Movie Night – “The Greatest Showman” – Calhoun Recreation Football Field

3) Downtown Development Authority

The Historic Preservation Commission approved to sign request and one improvement grant. The HPC gave 5,000 in improvement grants the month of April. Several businesses downtown applied and were awarded the PPP loan from the federal government. Retail and restaurants are continuing to offer curbside pickup. The DDA is encouraging everyone to shop local.

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

1) Electric Department

- Construction continues on new residential housing in Madison Garden on Beamer Road and Willow Brook phase 2 on Dews Pond Road.
- Streetlight LED upgrade around the City.
- Electrical Engineering has begun on the new Calhoun Early Learning Academy on Barrett Road and the Gordon County Annex expansion.
- Mainline Distribution Maintenance continues as the other joint use utilities transfer off of the bad utility poles to the new replacement poles and we are able to pull the bad poles and get them out of the system.

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED FOR: AUGUST:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| • NEWLY CREATED | 88 |
| • COMPLETED AND CLOSED | 67 |
| • CONSISTING OF: | |
| • CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION | 31 |
| • STREET AND SECURITY LIGHTING- | 19 |
| • DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE | 15 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| • OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS | 6 |
| • WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS | 23 |
| • NEW METER SETS | 7 |
| • METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT | 47 |
| • ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED- | 278 |

City of Calhoun’s Electrical load for August 2020 is estimated to be about 38 million kilowatt hours (kWh). This is about 3 million more than last month and about the same as August of 2019. Actual numbers will be released around September 18th.

American Public Power Association (APPA) and Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG) requested Mutual Aid in response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Laura. On August 25th the City of Calhoun responded and sent Electrical crews to Abbeville and Welsh Louisiana. Electric Department personnel Dennis Henry, Matt Chapman, Jessie Shook, Nathan Stokes, Neil Dockery, Dylan Joyce, D.K. Nicholson, Matt Rains and Brett Sane joined several other Cities restoring power to the devastated communities.

2) **Telecommunications**

- Installed internet service for four new customers.
- Started work on two new internet customers.
- Increased existing customer bandwidth 300 Megabits.
- Relocated fiber drop for existing customer.
- Disconnected one point-to-point and one internet customer.
- Work continues on new switch configurations, verifications and installation procedures.
- Started getting quotes for new server systems.
- Replaced failing spam filter appliance.
- Installed 3 web cameras at Brittany Drive Water Plant.
- Renewed email server security certificate.
- Opened 20 and closed 17 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Created Pavement Evaluation layer for Calhoun streets.
- Worked with Engineering on water modeling.
- Generated usage reports for Electric Department
- Updated maps for parcel zoning, water lines, water meters, electric, and telecom.
- Updated fire pre-plans for Fire Department and physical addresses for Billing
- Updated City and GIS web sites
- City employee GIS login statistics
 - Total logins – 1326
 - Top three layers accessed
 - Water – 645
 - Electric – 228

3) **Building Inspections**

- Issued 56 permits for an estimated cost of \$24,495,224, collected \$165,583 in permit fees. This included 9 new residential, 5 residential remodel, 1 new commercial, 3 commercial remodel, 1 industrial remodel, 6 residential plumbing, 10 residential electrical, 1 commercial plumbing, 4 residential HVAC, 1 commercial HVAC, 2 commercial electrical, 1 industrial plumbing, and 1 industrial electrical. 168 total inspections.

7. **Public Hearing and Comments**

None

8. **Old Business**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of a distilled spirits and beer/wine package license at a location of 255 West Line Street, by Noorali Somani. The proposed store manager is Karmaren Patel. The public hearing will be held on September 28th
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of a beer and wine package license at a location of 466 Hwy 53 East by Tammy Bennett, DBA: Food Depot. The applicant will also serve as the store manager. The public hearing will be held on September 28th.

9. **New Business**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of PRD for 2.43 acres, at a location of Henderson Bend Road (parcel 042-026C), by William D. Edwards Revocable Living Trust. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 8th and the public hearing will be held on October 12th.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of R1-B for 0.37 acre, at a location of 108 Cherry Street, SW (parcel GC27-110), by Julia Moore. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 8th and the public hearing will be held on October 12th.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of C-2 for a combined total of 0.70 acre, at a location of 125 and 127 Thomas Street (GC21-014 & GC21-013), by Johnathan Stone; CGA Global Realty LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 8th and the public hearing will be held on October 12th.
- D. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer, wine and distilled spirits pouring application at a location of 235 W Line Street, by Guadalupe V Bejarano DBA Lupitas Mexican Restaurant. The proposed store manager is Hector Holguin. Eligible for public hearing on October 12th. Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to set the public hearing for October 12th. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer read a request for the re-appointment of Chip Sloan to the Calhoun-Gordon County Airport Authority. Mr. Sloan's term expired on June 30th, 2020. The appointment is to serve another three year term beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the reappointment. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved. Mayor

Pro Tem Crowley stated that he attended some of the meetings of the board and wanted to thank all of the Airport Authority board members. They all dedicate a lot of time to the airport.

- F. Mayor Palmer read a recommendation from Public Works to accept the low bid of \$126,000 from CR Coating LLC for the restriping of 11 roads equaling approximately 14 miles. Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to accept the low bid from CR Coating LLC. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

10. Other Written Items Not on the Agenda

11. Work Reports

- A. Mr. Worley stated that the property on the corner of McDaniel Station and Recreation Drive will house the new main police department, a vehicle service building, and a recreation maintenance building. Twenty-Eight bid packages have been issued and approximately 19 contractors and sub-contractors were in attendance at today's pre bid meeting. 2018 SPLOST dollars will be used for construction of the facilities. We should have the results of the bidding process at the October 12th regular meeting.
- B. Mr. Vickery stated that water and electric sales and usage have returned to normal.
- C. Mr. Govignon discussed the new court process stating that a new approach using a staggered calendar will begin on October 5th. The City is currently working to modernize the wireless application through a city hub located at the court house. This will provide an independent network for the city.

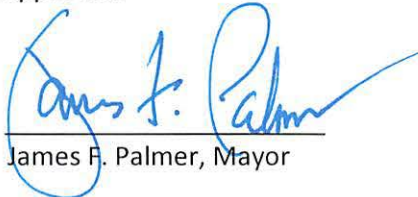
12. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

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. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk