

**CITY OF CALHOUN  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM  
109 SOUTH KING ST  
January 9, 2017 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT: David Hammond, Mayor Pro Tem  
Al Edwards, Councilman  
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilwoman  
Matt Barton, Councilman**

**ADSENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor**

**ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Paul Worley, Assistant City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; George Govignon, City Attorney; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief**

- 1. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.  
A. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond gave the invocation.**
- 2. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.**
- 3. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Edwards seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.**
- 4. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the regular minutes of the December 19, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the December 19, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.**
- 5. Mayor's Comments:**
  - A. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that he would now announce the Council appointments for 2017. All of the Councilmembers serve at large, so these appointments are for reporting purposes according to the Code of Ordinances Section 2-33. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond read the following appointment list:**
    - a. Councilman Edwards- Water and Sewer Operations, Water and Sewer Construction, Police, Municipal Court, Court Services and Enforcement, Fire, and Building Inspection.**
    - b. Councilman Barton- Electric, Telecommunications, Downtown Development Authority, Main Street Program, and Historic Preservation Commission, Schools, and Safety Committee.**
    - c. Councilwoman Palazzolo- Street, Sanitation, Cemetery, Animal Control, Recycling, Golf, Recreation Authority, Recreation Advisory Committee, and Zoning Advisory Board.**

- d. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond- Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, Revolving Loan, Library, and Airport.
    - After the reading of the Council appointments Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the list as read. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
  - B. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond reminded the Council of the upcoming GMA Mayor's Day Conference on January 20-23, 2017 in Atlanta. There will be training for elected officials and opportunities to meet with members of State government to discuss issues important to local governments.
6. **Council Comments:** Councilman Barton made a motion to bypass the reading of the monthly work reports. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that the submitted work reports would be posted online and in the Minutes for anyone who is interested in reading the work reports. Also, anyone can contact City Hall for additional information or questions.
- A. Councilman Edwards submitted December reports are as follows:
    - 1) **Water, Sewer, and Engineering**
      - The 2" Galvanized Line Replacement Project –The project as a whole is approximately 70% complete. Thor Drive, Hunt's Subdivision, Spring Valley, Davis Road, Edwards Street, Fox Street, Short Street, and West Street have been completed. The next area will be sections of Cherry Hill Drive, Sherwood Drive, Highland Ct, and Valley Circle is under construction.
      - Flocculation and Sedimentation Control Project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant- The project has been completed except for a failure in a section of piping, which will be corrected by the contractor. The contractor has scheduled this work within the next few weeks.
      - The new NPDES permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant went into effect March 1, 2016. Several items required under the new permit have been implemented. The required Design Development Report has been submitted and approved by EPD. Design of the chemical feed system has been completed and submitted to EPD.
      - The Nutrient Trading Monitoring Pilot Program is underway. The first phase, funded by a Section 319 Grant has been completed. We are working on a second 319 Grant application to continue the monitoring. EPD would like for the second phase of monitoring to include a larger scale in conjunction with the small plots. The North Georgia Water resources has agreed to help fund the in-kind match should the grant be awarded.
      - Wastewater Treatment Plant Motor Control Center Upgrades Phase one- The new motor control centers were delivered on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The contractor began work on November 1<sup>st</sup> and is approximately 50% complete.
      - Miller's Ferry Loop Water Main- The US 41 section is complete, with the second phase along Millers Ferry and part of Shaw Road under construction.

- South Calhoun By-Pass utility relocations- GDOT gave us a “Notice to Proceed” on February 19, 2016. GDOT has awarded the road project to Wright Brothers Construction. The water and sewer relocation project has been delayed by issues involving wetlands. The required categorical exclusion has been issued by EPD and a copy sent to GEFA.
- Second interconnect with Chatsworth on Maple Grove Church Road is underway. Chatsworth has requested the second connection at this location.
- Pisgah Drainage Area Sewer Replacement – Bid opening was January 4, 2017. IPR Southeast was the low bidder at \$1,029,191. The project is budgeted at \$1,045,002.

**2) Water Treatment Plant Facility**

- Total gallons withdrawn: 284,640,000
- Daily average: 9,181,935
- Wells: 109,180,000
- Big Springs: 0
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 38.4%
- Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 30.0%
- Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 31.6%
- Rainfall for December- 3.04” Yearly total for 2016 is 30.69”. Yearly total for 2015 was 63.57”.
- The City of Calhoun, along with a total of 53 Georgia Counties, continue to be under a Georgia EPD Declared Level Two Drought Response.

**3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility**

- Treated a daily average of 2.833 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 4, average suspended effluent of 10, and an average COD of 39.

**4) Water Distribution**

- 331 work orders completed, 8 new water connections, 18 water service leaks repaired, 22 water main leaks repaired, 17 water services changed to new main lines, 203 meter changes, 23 utility locates called in for work orders, 443 utility locates responses.
- Began changing water service to new mains on Owens Chapel Road and New Town Church Road.

**5) Waste Water Collection**

- 1,800’ Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 264 utility locates completed, 5,600’ sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 3 new sewer connections installed, 4 sanitary sewer services repaired.

**6) Building Inspection Department**

- Issued 33 permits for an estimated cost of \$791,500, collected \$6,829 in permit fees. This included 2 new residential, 3 residential remodeling, 1 new commercial, 5 commercial remodel/Addition, 3 grading permits, and 99 total inspections.

**7) Recreation Department**

- Park Expansion Project – Final walkthrough was held on Tuesday, January 3. A list of items that the contractor and landscape contractor are still responsible for was established.
- SWIMMING POOL RENOVATION – Mayan Pools has completed the plastering of the pool. Tests are being completed over the next 2 weeks to make sure everything is operating correctly.
- Youth Basketball – Youth Basketball games began on December 12. The partnership with Calhoun City Schools allows us to be able to use the Primary, Elementary and Middle school gyms for practices and games. All gym space is maxed out for our basketball program December through early February.
- Youth Football – Youth Football wrapped up December 10 with the GRPA State Championships. All games were played at Phil Reeve Stadium. Teams from Chatham County, Effingham County, Sumter County, Rome, Camden County, Walton County and Calhoun participated in this event. The tournament had an estimated economic impact of \$46,800.00
- 2016 Tournaments/special events- Calhoun Recreation Department hosted ten tournaments/special events during 2016 for youth basketball, fast pitch softball, soccer and youth football. A total of 8,884 participants visited our facilities for these events. The economic impact for these events is estimated at \$474,370.

**2017 UPCOMING EVENTS:**

CALHOUN-GORDON COUNTY UNITED WAY – WARM-UP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT – FEBRUARY 9-12  
USA SOFTBALL – 14U NATIONAL QUALIFIER – MAY 5-7, 2017  
USA SOFTBALL – 16 GOLD SOUTHERN TERRITORY QUALIFIER – JUNE 9-11, 2017  
USA SOFTBALL – 18A NATIONAL QUALIFIER – JUNE 9-11, 2017  
USA SOFTBALL OF GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – 16U – JULY 7-9, 2017  
GRPA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – 7-8 COACH PITCH – BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL – JULY 11-15, 2017  
GRPA STATE FOOTBALL – NORTH REGIONALS – DECEMBER 2-3, 2017

**B. Councilman Barton submitted December reports are as follows:**

**1) Police Department**

- Made 621 cases with 3 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$30,688
- Issued 356 warnings
- Investigated 79 highway accidents, 48 private property accidents
- Provided 84 escorts
- 1,638 incident reports
- Responded to 383 alarms
- Miles patrolled: 43,691
- Responded to 4,397 calls for service by E-911

**2) Municipal Court and Probation**

- Total Court cases- 118
- Court cases dropped- 43
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 54

- Number of Probation cases- 13
- Failure to appear- 10
- Subpoenas served- 3

**3) Fire Department- Suppression**

- Responded to 198 calls for service for the suppression division, with 6 fire incidents.
- Responded to 127 medical service calls.
- Responded to 7 hazardous conditions incidents.
- Responded to 11 false alarms or false calls, 33 good intent.
- Assisted with fire extinguisher class at Gordon Central High School.

**Training Division**

- Department completed 407 hours of training.
- Training consisted of: hazardous materials and officer training.
- Total training for the Department during the year was 10,599 man hours.

**4) Fire Inspection Department**

- 67 total reported activities/inspections which included 15 annual inspections, 2 new business inspections, 11 requested inspections, 13 follow-up or re-inspections, and 22 consultations.

**5) Downtown Development Authority**

- The DDA director attended a Business Engagement Committee meeting and a Young Professionals meeting. The Historical Preservation Commission held its monthly meeting. There was 1 COA approved as requested by Pete's Music City. The DDA had its regularly scheduled board meeting.
- The DDA installed a new tree in front of Baxter/Dean Studio and added Christmas decorations to downtown. The DDA and CVB are in the process of updating the mobile app. The update will be complete at the end of January. The planning for the annual Barbeque, Boogie & Blues in downtown is underway. The dates will be April 28th & 29th.
- There will be a DDA board retreat on Monday, January 30th from 9-2 at the Depot. It will be facilitated by Joel Cordle with Georgia Downtowns. The goal of this retreat is to create a strategic plan going forward that is specific to our downtown.

C. Councilwoman Palazzolo submitted December reports are as follows:

**1) Street Department**

- Completed 25 shop and 16 street department work orders.
- Installed 3 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Worked the annual Christmas Parade of Lights.
- Performed maintenance on the mountain bike trail.
- Continued the annual leaf clean up around town.

2) **Cemetery Department**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 8 grave sites.
- Sold 12 new grave spaces.

3) **Parks Department**

- The Parks Department grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
- Maintained approximately 19 miles of sidewalks, 29 islands, and 42 other designated places in the City.
- Coordinated and worked with the contractor for the replacement of three HVAC units at the Library and complete HVAC replacement at the McConnell Community Center.
- The building and maintenance crew performed routine maintenance on designed city buildings and all fountains.

4) **Animal Control**

- Housed 20 dogs and 12 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 8
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 6
- Number of cats rescued: 9
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 1
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 13
- Number of bite cases: 1
- Citations issues: 1

5) **Court Services and Enforcement**

- 12/9/16- The following streets were maintained by inmate trash detail: Columbus Circle, Spring Valley Drive, McDaniel Station Road – 30 Bags. Downtown Christmas Parade cleanup and inmates also worked straightening/restacking cardboard in the recycling trailer and warehouse.
- 12/16/16 – Inmates worked at the recycling center.
- 12/30/16 – Outlet Center Drive, Mauldin Road– 26 Bags
- Total bags of trash collected by inmate detail was 56.
- Also, assisted various City Departments that may need help, such as code enforcement, police, city court, city hall, recycling, and others.

6) **Calhoun Recycling Center**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Sale</i>
<i>Plastics (1 &amp; 2)</i>	7,232 lbs. (3.6 Tons)	N/A

<i>Aluminum Cans</i>	520 lbs. (0.3 Tons)	\$ 234.00
<i>Glass</i>	9,100 lbs. (4.5 Tons)	N/A
<i>Steel Cans &amp; Scrap</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>OCC</i>	4,040 lbs. (2.0 Tons)	\$636.00
<i>Mixed Paper</i>	16,100 lbs. (8.1 Tons)	N/A
<i>Total</i>	36.992 lbs. ( 18.5 Tons)	\$870.00

<b>Plastics (1 &amp; 2)</b>	<b>34 Gaylords</b>
<b>Aluminum Cans</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Glass</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Steel Cans</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>OCC</b>	<b>22 Bales</b>
<b>Mixed Paper</b>	<b>66 Gaylords</b>
<b>Soft Plastics (Rutco)</b>	<b>16 Gaylords</b>
<b>Electronics</b>	<b>3 Gaylords</b>

- Gaylords are the type of containers we ship our mixed plastics and mixed paper in via transfer truck. 50 Gaylords denote a full trailer at which point a pick will be scheduled and trailer loaded and shipped.
- The percentage is the fullness of the given container at the recycling center. When the percentage reaches 100 it will be shipped to the buyer.
- Baled OCC will be held until it is deemed the right time to sell by the coordinator. As prices fluctuate in the commodities market, timing is key to bring the city the best price possible at any given time.
- Rutco Recycling accepts our soft plastics (numbers 3-7). This is a newly formed partnership with Rutco and Michaels Carpet which provides the center with trailers and transportations free of charge to the city.

**Curbside Pick-up pilot program: Phase 1 Final Report**

WEEK	1 Oct 4	2 Oct 18	3 Nov 1	4 Nov 15	5 Nov 29	6 Dec 6	7 Dec 20	TOTAL
OCC	236 lbs.	167 lbs.	101 lbs.	98 lbs.	148 lbs.	129 lbs.	260 lbs.	1,139 lbs.
MIX P	366 lbs.	292 lbs.	277 lbs.	355 lbs.	278 lbs.	161 lbs.	467 lbs.	2,196 lbs.
PLASTIC	67 lbs.	71 lbs.	59 lbs.	71 lbs.	64 lbs.	39 lbs.	138 lbs.	509 lbs.
ALUM	7 lbs.	11 lbs.	8 lbs.	9 lbs.	7 lbs.	13 lbs.	18 lbs.	73 lbs.
STEEL	10 lbs.	13 lbs.	11 lbs.	11 lbs.	12 lbs.	9 lbs.	29 lbs.	95 lbs.
TOTAL	686 lbs.	554 lbs.	456 lbs.	544 lbs.	509 lbs.	351 lbs.	912 lbs.	4,012 lbs.
BAGS	93	117	91	114	101	52	165	733

- Curbside customers followed guidelines for sorting.

- Customers placed recyclables at curb prior to pick-up.
- Zero complaints from customers or public.
- Blue bag sorting method proved to be effective yet can be improved upon.
- Mauldin's Trash Service managed pick-up of bags with seamless effort.

7) **Safety Committee**

- Safety topic- Year-end review
- Safety Inspection- Police Department
- Vehicle Accidents: 0
- Workers Compensation: 0

8) **Library**

- There are 10,608 library card holders, 5,145 library visitors, and 4,728 total circulation.
- There were 64 story time attendance, 45 adult program attendance, 102 digital new users, 201 e-books, 210 audio books, 1,338 computer logins, and 5,762 Facebook visits.

D. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond submitted December reports are as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- Christmas decorations have been removed and stored till next year.
- The bad pole replacement project continues on Creekview Drive.
- Four new temporary power services have been installed for new residential construction on Willowbrook Drive.
- The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for December is projected to be 31,497,000 kilowatt hours. This is 1,173,701 more than last year, but 765,020 less than the record set in December 2013.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 86
- Completed and closed- 75
- Consisting of:
- Capital construction- 7
- Street and security lighting-28
- Distribution Maintenance-8
- Outages/trouble calls- 6
- Meter maintenance/replacement- 12
- New customer meter sets- 14
- Electric locate tickets processed- 215

2) **Telecommunications Departments:**

- Installed one new internet circuit and moved one point-to-point circuit.
- Disconnected 1 residential customer moving out of town.
- Replace customer access equipment at 7 locations. Replacement project is now 37% complete.
- Reattached fiber and copper lines onto poles broken by delivery truck. Fiber and copper lines were not damaged.
- Relocated fiber on Academy Drive for new construction.

- Setup and installed new software license management server for Engineering Department.
- Started engineering and layout for fiber construction path for Brittany Well.
- Started fiber design for new Police Precinct at the Outlet Mall.
- Ordered database software for financial software upgrade.
- Opened 16 and closed 19 work orders.

**3) Geographic Information Systems:**

- Worked with Engineering Department to run water modeling sessions.
- Updated water meter data and physical building addresses for Billing.
- Updated Zoning map.
- Updated fiber map.
- Added new fire pre-plan for buildings for Fire Department.
- Updated City and GIS web sites.

**4) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission**

- The Regional Commission (RC) oversees 15 counties and 51 cities in Northwest Georgia that helps to reallocate federal dollars to various programs that benefit the citizens such as meals on wheels, workforce training, community planning, area on aging, and community and economic development.

**5) Tom B. David Airport**

- The Airport is an authority supported by both Gordon County and the City of Calhoun. The airport is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest permanent based aircraft airport in the state of Georgia. There are currently 118 airplanes based at the airport. The six counties that have more aircraft have populations of 150,000 or greater, where Gordon County only has 56,000. The airport has a 6,000 foot runway, where most others only have 5,000. Therefore, our airport can handle larger corporate jets for local industry. Also, the airport will receive 90% in Federal funding to build a parallel taxiway that will enable the airport to handle more traffic in and out. Future expansions will allow the airport to grow even more and grow the positive local economic impact. Finally, the Airport Authority is looking at expansions of corporate hanger space and long term plans for the airport. Future expansions will allow the airport to grow even more and grow the positive local economic impact.

**7. Public Hearings and Comments:**

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond opened a public hearing of a building height variance for North Georgia Hotel Developers at a location of 1007 E Hwy 53 SE. The applicant is requesting to exceed the maximum building height of 50 feet per the zoning code and to allow a proposed hotel building up to a height of 70 feet.
  - Administrator Peterson stated that all advertising requirements have been met.

- Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that the Zoning Advisory Board meet on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The ZAB recommended that the variance request be approved.
- Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked for comments.
- A representative of the applicant was present, Mr. Steven Love. Mr. Love thanked the Council for the opportunity, and thanked the Zoning Advisory Board for their work and approval of the request.
- Gary Crosby of 118 Summerfield Lane stated that LuGina Brown was the owner of the adjoining property. The variance request of 70 feet would be an obstruction of her property, her building, and her sign. They are not opposed to a new hotel, but they hope it will be set back off the road some so it would allow traffic into the property easier and it would also enhance their property. The existing building is 52 feet from the curb of Hwy 53 and their building is 120 feet. Mr. Crosby was concerned that if the new building was not set back far enough it would block their sign.
- There were no more public comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the variance request based on the Zoning Advisory Board's recommendation. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

**8. Old Business: None**

**9. New Business:**

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked for a motion to set qualifying fees for 2017 General Municipal Election- City Council Post 3 and 4; School Board Post 1, 2, and 3.
  - City Council- \$252.00
  - School Board- \$1.00
  - Councilman Barton made a motion to set the qualifying fees as stated. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- B. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond read a special event permit request by Baxter Dean (event organizer Andy Baxter) for the sixth annual Baxter Dean Runway Show on Friday April 21, 2017. The event will require that Court Street from Park Avenue to South Wall Street be closed from 3:00pm until 11:00pm. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked for comments from the applicant. Andy Baxter stated he appreciated the opportunity and they hoped to raise a lot of money for a local charity. This year's recipient is the Calhoun-Gordon County Literacy Council. The show and production will be bigger this year and that is why they need the road closure for the stated time frame. Councilman Barton asked about if the time could be pushed back some to reduce the amount of time the road would be closed. Andy stated that he did check with his technology person and he said that they would not be able to get everything in place for the show if it was delayed any further. The technology person actually wanted the road closed before 3:00pm. The show is scheduled to start at 8:00pm. There is a lot of equipment to move in prior to the start of the show. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked for any additional comments. There were no more comments. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the special

- event request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. The request will now need to be submitted to GDOT for approval.
- C. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond read a recommendation of award for the Pisgah Area Sewer Replacement Project. There were three bids (bid sheet attached) with IPR Southeast, LLC being the low bid of \$1,029,191. The engineering department is recommending the award go to the apparent low bidder. Mr. Vickery stated that this was a large project covering a large area with some of the oldest existing infrastructure in the City. Mr. Crawford stated that the contractors will be using newer technology of pipe bursting to help reduce the disruption. This procedure will be utilized versus the traditional open ditch method of back hoes digging a ditch. The new pipe is pulled through the old pipe and it breaks and expands the existing pipe area. The pipe bursting method will allow the only open cuts to be at the service points. This will allow for a lot less traffic interruptions, less pavement replacement, and the process is completed much faster. The low bid did come in under budget. Some of the streets that will be impacted are Harlan Street, College Street, Line Street, part of Wall Street, part of Piedmont Street, and part of Trammell Street. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that there will be more information provided for the citizens to monitor the project on the City's website and social media platforms prior to the start of construction. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the recommendation of award for the Pisgah Area Sewer Replacement Project to IPR Southeast, LLC in the amount of \$1,029,191. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond conducted the following late Annual Business License renewal readings. All applicable late penalties will apply.
- Beer and Wine Pouring- Gondolier's Pizza
  - Beer and Liquor Pouring- Taco House
  - Beer, Wine, and Liquor Pouring- Duke's
  - Beer and Wine Pouring Theatre- Calhoun's GEM Theatre
  - Wine Package- Calhoun Drug Company
  - Pawn- Los Buenos Amigo and Taxi Express
  - Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the late annual business license renewals. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- E. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that several years ago the Council decided that holding the position of Mayor Pro Tem would be a great experience on how to conduct meetings, like the Mayor does, and carry on the business of the City. The Council started making the appointments on a rotational basis. Mr. Hammond stated that it was his honor and pleasure to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the year 2016 and would entertain a motion to select a Mayor Pro Tem for 2017. Councilman Edwards made a motion to select Matt Barton as the Mayor Pro Tem for 2017. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

**10. Other written items not on the agenda: None**

**11. Work Reports:**

**A. Eddie Peterson**

- Administrator Peterson stated that the City's Public Safety and Public Works did an outstanding job with the recent snow event. They were able to pre-treat some roads Friday night right before the snow hit, and with the sun shining on Saturday afternoon a lot of the snow and ice melted away quickly. The City was well prepared for anything that might have come out of the storm event.

**B. Larry Vickery**

- Larry Vickery stated that the Utility Departments were also ready for the storm event. They were able to participate in the Emergency Operation Command Center updates prior to the storm. The water crews were ready to scrap roads if needed, and the electric standby crew was ready for any power outage calls. Fortunately, there were no power outage calls.

**C. George Govignon**

- Attorney Govignon stated that earlier in the day he received an offer from Henry Tharpe on behalf of North Georgia Electric Membership Corporation concerning the situation at the Red Bud Road interchange. The offer is under review and discussions are needed of what counter offer may be needed. The offer basically gave no concessions to the City other than what we already have and concessions to modify the territorial agreement on their behalf. The City is interested in several concessions from NGEMC, and otherwise the issue will need to go to the Public Service Commission to determine who has the right to serve that interchange. As such, all the documentation says the City has the right to serve the interchange.

- 12. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond** stated he wanted to mention a few things that were mentioned at the work session. These are items the Council will be working on in the new year. First, the Council will be looking at ethics reform for elected officials to obtain openness and complete transparency. There have been a few issues with opposing points of view over the last few weeks and the Council will be working with legal on developing an ordinance and then adopting. Next, the Council is looking closely at expanding the Council from four members to six members. That would require a Charter change and would have to go to the floor of the State House of Representatives. The Council is looking at passing a Resolution and then getting that to the House and see if it makes it to the floor of the House. A lot of communities have increased in size and population and more elected officials correspondingly to give you a broader opinion. If this goes forward, the Council will look at establishing districts in the community and at-large positions. Next, after the recent management change at utilities, the Council is looking at establishing some baseline areas. A community group will be asked to come in and assist with this evaluation process to help establish an acceptance policy of how we move into the future. The Council is looking at how to move forward with the planning of building a new police station. Mr. Peterson has discussed putting together a committee to work on this plan with professionals in construction and in law enforcement. One member that has been asked is Councilman Edwards for his experience in construction. Also, looking at one or two citizen volunteers to work with the committee. All this planning will be needed to build a police station that will work well for the City for many years to come. Next, the Council is looking at filming the City Council meetings and making them available online and a YouTube platform. This will allow citizens who are not able to make the meeting can view the meetings from home and see

what is being discussed. They will be able to hear and see everything discussed and understand what we are talking about and hopefully have a bigger involvement. Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that she met with Brad Carrick the City's Telecommunications Director, Bill Long with Calhoun City Schools, and Paul Worley to discuss the filming. These individuals will allow us the expertise to do this project in-house and once it is up and running, everyone will be able to watch the meetings. The more affordable system will probably not be able to live stream the meetings, but the meetings will be downloaded to the website and YouTube so everybody can see it. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that not everyone will be plugging in to watch the meetings, but hopefully more people who have an interest will be able to view the meetings and take part in governing our community.

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

Approved:



David Hammond, Mayor Pro Tem

Submitted:



Paul Worley, City Clerk



## Calhoun Utilities

700 West Line Street  
Calhoun, GA 30701

"Excellence in Service"

January 5, 2017

Jerry W. Crawford  
Water & Sewer Director  
City of Calhoun

Re: Recommendation of Award  
Pisgah Area Sewer Line Replacement  
Bid Opening – January 4, 2017

Dear Mr. Crawford:

Tabulated below are the results of the opening for the above referenced bid:

Bidder	Total Bid
IPR Southeast, LLC	\$1,029,191.00
RDJE, Inc.	\$1,054,930.00
KM Davis Contracting Co. Inc.	\$1,179,880.00

We have investigated the work record of the apparent low bidder and found nothing that would prevent the project from being awarded them. We, therefore, recommend the award for the Pisgah Area Sewer Line Replacement to IPR Southeast, LLC in the amount of \$1,029,191.

Yours truly,

David M. Burnett, P.E.  
Engineering Manager

Today the Police and Fire Departments provide services to 12.5 square miles with a residential population of over 16,000 and a daytime population estimated to be as high as 55,000. These are people that come into the City to work, play or get off the interstate to shop, drive or stay.

The Police Department continues to partner with the FBI in a safe streets program that deals primarily with Drug – Forgery and Gang activities. We also partner with the Federal Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and have 2 officers that are sworn Federal Agents.

The Fire Department has recently seen a lowering of the ISO rating (Fire Protection Rating) from a 4 to a 3. While the number of structure fires decreased, the number of calls and responses continues to increase. This is due primarily to medical call requests. We have 11 certified EMTs in the department and Gordon EMS has confirmed several lives saved during medical responses. Just last month they responded to a call and found a man not breathing, with no heart beat and lips turning purple. Using their skills, they brought him back to life and he is alive today because of their training and fast response.

In the last few years we have been very fortunate to have SPLOST funds available. They allow us to do the approved projects and to buy several pieces of equipment that service our community. Such as police cars, street sweeper, brush

truck. I have heard estimates that as high as 35 to 40% of these funds are paid by people that do not live in our community. The 55,000 daytime population helps pay for projects that make our community better.

One project that has been completed is the expansion and renovation of the Library. If you have not visited the Library lately I would encourage you to do so and find out what the Library has to offer, such as Children's story time and free computer classes. This is done by a knowledgeable, friendly and helpful staff.

Another SPLOST approved project is Peters Street. This is for curb, gutter and sidewalks with a new and improved drainage system that will eliminate the deep ditches. The engineering and design is almost complete for Phase I. This will go from 41 to May Street and includes a proposed roundabout. The Utility relocation and improvements have already begun. These two projects are joint City and County Projects. It shows the ability to work together and the cooperation that exists between the City and County governments dedicated to making our community better. It is a good group to work with and we talk regularly about other opportunities.

We have also completed the master plan for the 58 acre expansion at the Recreation Department. Work on Phase I will begin soon with a tentative

completion date of April 2017. It will provide new opportunities for recreation with 3 new ballfields and 3 multipurpose fields.

I was recently reading in City/County Magazine that 27% of all trips taken inside the United States were directly related to a sporting event and the sports travel industry is the fastest growing segment of the travel industry. Sporting events strengthen our local economy through overnight stays, dining and shopping by people that would not otherwise be here.

Last year, special events and tournaments brought in approximately 3000 participants and 7000 spectators with an estimated economic impact of \$600,000 to \$700,000.

I often stress the value of volunteers in our community and I thank the many of you that volunteer to make our community better. Today I want to recognize one person and that is Judy Peterson. Judy came to the Council and volunteered her time to serve as the recycling coordinator at no cost to the City because of her desire to help the environment and prolong the life of the landfill.

- She has established a partnership with many businesses and industries. They have contributed financially as well as provided collection units and sites as well as hauling free of charge.
- The recycle drop off center has had a face lift with painting and new signage.

- Had an appliance event in January and collected 60 units.

She has put together a group that believe in the benefits of recycling. They meet regularly and if you would like to join them please contact Judy.

Last year our community was recognized as one of the top 4 cities in the state as the best place to raise a family. This looked at safety – quality of life – education – and housing, but it did not consider two of our other strong points.

They are excellence in utilities with some of the lowest rates in the state and our strong financial position with perhaps the lowest millage rate (property tax rate) in the state.

Our Electric Department completed the work for the lighting of exit 312.

It is estimated that the lighting of an exit increases the number of people getting off by as much as 20%. It makes it more inviting and people feel safer. We have partnered with MEAG in two new generating units at Plant Vogle. This additional generation should meet our power needs for the next 35 years. The Electric Department has a new \$2.5 Million MEAG substation at McDaniel Station Rd Industrial Park. This insures adequate capacity and reliability and enhances economic development opportunities.

With the use of Grants, GEFA Loans and SPLOST funds, we have made major improvements at the Water and Wastewater Plants. These improvements should extend the life of the plants another 40 years. We have also completed a deep bed filtration project at Brittany Drive. We have a permitted capacity of 6 MGD from the well and 5.8 MGD from Big Spring but we only had the ability to treat 4 to 5 MGD. This project allows us to maximize our opportunities. According to GA EPD it makes us the only system in N.W. Georgia expected to have adequate water resources in 2050. We have positioned ourselves well with available capacity in water – wastewater and power and we are in a position of attracting new industry and development for many years to come.

I am proud to say the financial position of the City remains strong. This has been reaffirmed by standard and poor and our general obligation debt and credit ratings remain strong. In 1998 our millage rate was 1.985 and today it is 1.98. This means the taxes on a house are the same today as they were in 1998, if the value remained the same. We have been able to do this even with the tax digest going from \$842 million to \$721 million. I believe this is due to good financial management and planning as well as the ability to do approved projects and buy certain pieces of equipment using SPLOST dollars.