



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2026 - 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
Ed Moyer, Mayor Pro Tem
Al Edwards, Councilmember
Jackie Palazzolo, Councilmember
Bruce Potts, Councilmember

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; Brandon Bowen, City Attorney; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; Mike Schutz, Fire Chief; Ken Carson, Police; and, Lacey Fuquea, DDA Director.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**

Welcome

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

Invocation

Councilmember Edwards gave the invocation.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3. **Amendment or Approval of Proposed Agenda**

- A. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council executive session of January 26, 2026. Councilmember Potts gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- B. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of January 26, 2026. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer welcomed the 2026 Calhoun-Gordon County Leadership class noting that this is the 28th class since 1988 and includes 23 participants. To date over 750 participants have graduated the leadership group.

6. **Council Comments**

- A. Councilmember Palazzolo submitted January reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 156 cases with 4 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$34,724.97
- Issued 328 warnings
- Investigated 70 highway accidents, 25 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 13
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 4
- Alarm responses - 134
- Miles patrolled: 46,681

2) **Municipal Court**

- Citations from Police Department-155
- Court cases docketed- 233
- Probation cases assigned- 18
- Probation revocations- 2
- Bench warrants-2
- Failure to appear- 2

3) **Fire Department**

Suppression Division

- 200 Total Calls for Service to Include:
 - 6 – Fire Calls
 - 154 – Rescue and EMS Response
 - 41 – Service Calls
- 14.9% decrease in call volume from December.

Department Response Times

- Turnout Time – 1 minute 59 seconds
- Travel Time – 3 minutes 38 seconds
- Total Response Time – 5 minutes and 37 seconds
- No change in response times from December.

Inspections Division

- 7 – Annual Inspections

- 5 – Plan Reviews
- 1 – Zoning and Annexation Meetings
- 85.7% increase in inspections from January

Training Division

- 1497.8 Hours – Total Department Monthly Training Hours.
- 72.97% increase in training hours from December

Public Relations

- 12 – Public Relations Events
- 61 – Adults that received Fire and Life Safety Education
- 63 – Children that received Fire and Life Safety Education

Department Monthly Events

- January – Advanced EMT class continued throughout the month
- January 7th, 2026 – Performed joint training with Calhoun Water Department on Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- January 13th and 14th, 2026 – Performed Stop the Bleed training for Calhoun High School
- January 16th, 2026 – BC Green successfully completed Command and Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards
- January 22nd, 2026 – Performed Stop the Bleed training for Calhoun Seventh Day Adventist Church
- January 27th, 2026 – A Shift responded to 146 Creekview Drive in reference to a reported structure fire. Units arrived on scene to find a duplex with smoke coming from the residence's door. Residents in the yard reported that a patient was trapped in the residence and needed to be rescued. Personnel located the victim in the back of the residence and safely removed the patient through a window. Units turned the patient over to AdventHealth Gordon EMS for treatment.
- January 27th, 2026 – Hosted a Candidate Physical Ability Test for new hires for the open firefighter position.
- January 30th, 2026 – FF Villatoro successfully completed Transitional and Intrapersonal Leadership Training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

February Upcoming Events

- February – Advanced EMT class with 8 students will continue throughout the month with course completion on February 23rd, 2026
- February 7th, 2026 – Battery IQ Awareness and Operations Response to Battery Emergencies Course
- February 9th, 2026 – Bearers of Oath Firefighter's Conference at Calhoun Fire Training Center

- February 16th, 2026 – GSP SWAT Training at Calhoun Fire Training Center
- February 18th, 2026 – Community CPR Event at Calhoun Utilities
- February 19th, 2026 – Stop the Bleed Event at Calhoun Depot
- February 19th, 2026 – Stop the Bleed Event at Calhoun VAC
- February 25th, 2026 – Calhoun Youth Leadership Presentation

4) **Safety Committee**

- No safety meetings or inspections were held during the month of January.
 - Vehicle accidents: 0
 - Workers’ compensation: 2 1-Water Distribution 1-Fire Department

5) **Library**

- There are 13,013 library card holders, 4,483 library visitors, and 6,289 total circulation.
- There were 153 story time attendance, 41 adult program attendance, 101 new users, 1,964 e-books, 2,761 audio books, 307 computer logins, and 3,859 Facebook visits.

B. Councilmember Edwards submitted January reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Current Electric Department Engineering and Construction:

- The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.

ENGINEERING

New development on Peters St (102 homes)
 Dialysis Center on Curtis Pkwy
 Store on Curtis Pkwy

CONSTRUCTION

New field house and hitting facility at Calhoun High School
 Salacoa Subdivision
 Devonwood Underground Conversion
 Piedmont Street Pole Upgrades
 New townhomes on Newtown Rd (Ridgeview) (65 units)
 Reroute of the Salem Rd pump station line
 Continued system upgrades for new growth and system reliability

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:

• NEWLY CREATED	51
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	45

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• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	20
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	3
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	3
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	2
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	2
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	8
• NEW METER SETS	5
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	43
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	187

The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for JANUARY 2026 is about 29 million kilowatt hours (kWh's).

2) **Telecommunications**

- Completed and submitted 4th quarter Public Service Commission (PSC) report.
- Completed virtual server hard drive upgrade on our Disaster Recovery site for additional storage space.
- Police department pulse software update for GCIC network.
- Worked with 2 different existing internet customers on fiber relocation projects.
- Completed ATT elevator phone lines switch over at High School.
- Completed annual North Georgia EMC pole attachment count for joint use billing.
- Setup and configured Ready Forms in Munis software for W2.
- Completed updates on our virtual server software.
- Moved 1 workstation at City Hall.
- Setup and installed 3 new laptop/desktop computers.
- Troubleshooted a number of customer's internet connections.
- Submitted 5 quotes for new internet customers.
- Setup 3 new internet customers.
- Completed a number of 811 fiber locates.
- Opened 19 work orders and closed 17 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Water audit and water modeling pressure studies.
- Water well sampling GIS updates and mapping.
- Submitted updated Electric data to our locate company USIC.
- Update Sewer data in GIS
- 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 71 permits for an estimated cost of \$4,033,150, collected \$29,120 in permit fees. This included 15 new residential, 6 residential remodel, 0 new commercial, 1 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 0 industrial remodel, 12 residential plumbing, 11 residential electrical, 8 residential HVAC, 2 commercial plumbing, 1 commercial electrical, 0 commercial HVAC, 1 industrial plumbing, and 0 industrial electrical. 230 total inspections.

C. Councilmember Potts submitted January reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 343,580,000
- Daily average: 11,083,225
- Wells: 127,030,000
- Big Springs: 30,750,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 45.9%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 43.13%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 37.46%
 - Rainfall for January – 3.51”

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 6.042 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 11, and an average COD of 100.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 343 work orders completed, 63 new water connections, 10 water service leaks repaired, 18 water main leaks repaired, 0 water services changed to new main lines, 159 meter changes, 37 utility locates called in for work orders, 633 utility locates responses.
- 300 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 439 utility locates completed, 4,800 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 1 new sewer connections installed, 40 sanitary sewer connections installed by contractors, 8 sanitary sewer services repaired.

4) **Water and Sewer Construction**

Projects Under Construction

- Brittany Dr & Water Booster Stations Standby Generator Project – This project is approximately 95% completed. The only outstanding item for

this project is to integrate the controls within our plant SCADA system, and conduct final testing of operational components.

- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project –This project is approximately 75% completed.
- GDOT SR 53 & Brown Lee Mtn. Water Relocation Project – This project is approximately 90% completed.

Projects in Design & Development

- New Fire Tower Water Tank Project – Surveying has been completed and design is underway. This project consists of replacing an aging and undersized 1 million gallon tank for a new 2 million gallon tank on the north side of our system.
- Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Modifications
- GDOT SR 156 @ Salacoa Bridge Water Relocation Project. - This project consists of relocating approximately 4,000' of 8" water lines to accommodate a GDOT bridge replacement project.
- Salem Rd Bridge Water Relocation Project - This project consists of relocating approximately 600' of 12" water lines to accommodate a Gordon County bridge replacement project
- Peters St. Phase III Water Relocation – Under preliminary review.
- Curtis Pkwy Water & Sewer Relocation – Right-of-way acquisition is currently underway, and material for this project has been delivered. This project consists of relocating existing water and sewer lines for road and intersection improvements along Curtis Pkwy.
- Engineering for Spring Valley Sewer Phase II Rehabilitation Project (60% Complete) This project is a continuation of Ph I, which focuses on improving an older segment of our sewer system to reduce I&I and free up additional capacity in this sub-basin
- The Engineering Department is actively working on 8 plan reviews, along with 18 inspections of developments and projects that are progressively under construction.

5) Revolving Loan

Revolving Loan Funds are available for lending. Those interested may contact City Hall for more information and an application.

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

1) Public Works

Street Department

- Installed 2 new street signs.
- Pre-treated city streets with brine for incoming weather.
- Performed routine maintenance on the bike trail.

Cemetery

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 8 grave sites.
- Sold 9 new grave spaces.

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.
- Started painting pavilion at Chandler cemetery.

Animal Control

- Housed 17 dogs and 13 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 7
- Number of cats adopted: 5
- Number of dogs rescued: 2
- Number of cats rescued: 8
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 2
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 6
- Number of bite cases: 3
- Citations issued: 0

2) **Recreation Department**

YOUTH SPORTS:

Youth Basketball: The regular season of the youth basketball league concluded on February 2, 2026. Games were played 5 days per week using Calhoun Primary and Calhoun Middle School gyms. A total of 81 games were played throughout the month. Basketball all-star meetings were held January 20 and 21. There will be 4 teams representing Calhoun Recreation Department in the GRPA 5th District Basketball tournaments beginning February 23. We will host the 12th Annual All-Star Basketball Warm-up tournament with 31 teams February 10-14 2026.

Youth Baseball and Softball – Registration began January 12 and will go through Thursday February 19. Baseball and Softball assessments will be held February 23 and February 24.

Spring Soccer – Registration for Spring soccer began January 12 and will go through February 6. Soccer assessments will be held February 9 and 10.

Spring Volleyball - Registration for Spring volleyball began January 12 and goes through February 26 with assessments on March 2.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

202.6 Walking Challenge- This is a free program for all ages. Participants will walk 202.6 miles before December 31, 2026. All that reach the goal will receive a t-shirt. Registration ends March 27, 2026

Calhoun Senior Group – Met January 6 for Bingo and to discuss trips and activities for 2026. There were 28 seniors that came out. There will be at least 1 trip planned for each month starting in February.

Tennis – Adult Leagues in January – STA Combo Leagues – 134 participants; MAP Tennis Clinics – 28 participants; daily lesson and drills

CHS/CMS held tryouts and began practices – Monday through Friday 4:00pm – 6:00pm

PARKS/FACILITIES –

Field and Landscape Maintenance:

- Fertilized all sports fields to maintain healthy turf growth
- Applied new mulch at the new side baseball complex
- Mulched leaves around the park
- Trimmed shrubs and trees
- Leaf blowing completed along all fence lines

Sports Facility Preparations:

- Refurbished soccer goals
- Laid out soccer fields on Field 3 and high school soccer fields
- Laid out football field
- Repaired bleachers
- Installed new benches

Field and Playground Repairs:

- Fixed baseball screens and installed new nets
- Repaired fence gates on ball fields
- Performed repairs at black and yellow playgrounds

Facility Maintenance:

- Completed routine and preventative maintenance on all park facilities
- Cleaned and prepared pool for pressure washing
- Pressure washed all bathrooms and made necessary repairs
- Removed aged fence line and initiated replacement work

Additional Services:

- Daily trash pickup
- Continuous tree limb removal

WEBSITE USAGE –

CalhounRec.com

Sessions – 3,250

Page Views – 6,228

Users – 2,303

Posts – 11

Facebook

Post Engagements – 12,963

Posts – 30

Page Views – 168,113

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRPA District Meeting 1/14 – Douglasville – 3 staff members attended

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 10-14, 2026 – Calhoun-Gordon County United Way All-Star Basketball Warm-up Tournament

March 21, 2026 – Youth Sports Scholarship 5K

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

Downtown Businesses

January is typically a slower month for many downtown businesses, and several reported experiencing similar trends this year. However, Heavale Brewing Co. stood out with a strong performance, exceeding last January's sales by approximately \$2,000. We are thrilled to see this continued growth and community support for one of our downtown anchors.

Cassie's on Wall Street also responded creatively to the seasonal slowdown by launching Thursday night Bingo. The event has been well received and has already shown great success. It is encouraging to see downtown businesses remain nimble, try new ideas, and build on the momentum of our growing district.

The Pink Label is officially under new ownership, with Riley Goble taking the lead. The shop is expected to reopen on Court Street at the end of February. Staff are currently assisting with coordination for Calhoun Utilities telecom services—another benefit of operating in Downtown Calhoun. Riley is working diligently to prepare the space for a grand reopening, and we look forward to supporting her continued investment downtown.

Downtown Events

The 2026 downtown event calendar has been distributed to downtown businesses and is attached to this report. Block Party dates are still being finalized as we work to secure sponsorship funding to support this beloved series. Planning for 2026 continues to be guided by feedback from the 2025 community survey, and additional updates will be provided as details are confirmed. The calendar will also be updated throughout the year as new events are added.

Our first micro-event of the year, the Love Local Social, will take place on Saturday, February 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will feature music, seasonal décor, and interactive streetside elements including a friendship bracelet bar, flower bar, and sweet treat bar. We have purchased flowers from all three of our downtown florists and will use this opportunity to advertise for them. These activities are designed to encourage residents and visitors to shop and dine downtown. Participating retailers and restaurants will offer special menus, promotions, in-store pop-ups, and more. We are excited to measure the impact of these smaller-scale events on downtown activity.

BBQ & Boogie 2026

Planning for our largest annual event begins approximately six months in advance, and preparations are now underway. January marks a key point in the planning process. The Special Event Permit Application is attached for Council review. We are also excited about the Friday night headlining band, which will be announced soon.

NEW 2026 Sponsorship Packet

Securing sponsorship support each year is essential but often time-intensive. To improve efficiency and provide clarity for potential sponsors, a new comprehensive 2026 Sponsorship Packet has been developed. This resource outlines sponsorship opportunities across the full year of events, allowing businesses to select options that best align with their goals and plan ahead. In past years, sponsorships were often secured on a piecemeal basis throughout the year. This new approach is intended to better communicate the marketing value of supporting downtown events while streamlining the process for both staff and sponsors. The packet is attached for your review.

7. Zoning Hearings and Comments

Announce at this time, public hearings will be held. The public will have the opportunity to make pro and con comments with a ten minute maximum time limit for each side of the matter, with each person giving their name and address. An inquiry should be made to determine if any elected official has filed a disclosure statement regarding ownership or special interest in any of the agenda items. Zoning Land Use Maps on display in Council Chambers for Zoning Advisory Board and Council hearings.

A. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from County R-3 to R1-B for 0.172 acres at a location of 1005 Court Street, being parcel 002-039, by Sulma Betancourt. The Zoning Advisory Board did not meet due to lack of quorum.

- 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 annexation request.
- Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilmember Potts gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request of R1-B.
- Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the zoning request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. Other Hearings and Comments

A. Public hearing of a beer and wine package application at a location of 235 West Line Street, Suite 2, by Dews Pond Ventures LLC d/b/a Amoco. Noor B. Ali is the owner and 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.
- Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the alcohol request. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Public hearing of a beer pouring application at a location of 220 South Wall Street, for El Cubano Restaurant. Richard Cardeno is the owner and the proposed 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 Potts made a motion to approve the alcohol request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

9. **Old Business**

10. **New Business**

- A. City Administrator Worley presented the City of Calhoun's Fiscal Year 2025 financial audit, reporting that the City received an unmodified (clean) opinion in accordance with applicable governmental accounting standards. He expressed his appreciation to Finance Director Jacob Fox and the finance staff for their diligence and professionalism throughout the audit process.
- B. City Administrator Worley gave a review of first quarter financial statements. He noted that council members received a detailed financial review during today's work session and highlighted key departmental insights from the financials for the three months ended September 30, 2025 (copy attached). Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer read an alcohol manager change request at a location of 910 South Wall Street, by Walgreens. The prior manager was Lacey Southern and the proposed new manager is Megen Ridgway. Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the alcohol manager change request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.



- D. Mayor Palmer read a request by the DDA for the following street closings in connection with the 2026 BBQ & Boogie Festival, to be held April 24th-25th. Starting on April 24th at noon until April 25th at midnight. Court Street from King Street to Wall Street/Hwy 41; Park Avenue from Hicks Street to Harlan Street; Oothcalooga Street from Wall Street/Hwy 41 to the railroad tracks; Harlan Street from Wall Street/Hwy 41 to Park Avenue; and the Municipal Parking lot. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the special event with the requested street closings. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer read a Temporary Outdoor Alcohol Special Event Permit request for Black Sheep Events, in association with the BBQ and Boogie Special Event Permit Request by the Downtown Development Authority, to allow the provision of alcohol for the event. The permit request is for Friday, April 24th from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 25th from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the temporary alcohol event permit. Councilmember Potts 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.

13. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to move to executive session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a city officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2). Councilmember Potts gave a second with all voting aye. Councilmembers moved to executive session at 7:51pm.

14. Motion to return to General Session

- A. There being no other discussion, and on motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem Moyer and seconded by Councilmember Palazzolo, the executive session was adjourned, and Council members returned to the general session at 8:08pm.

15. Motion to Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Potts gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Approved:

Submitted:

James F. Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

