



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 25, 2024- 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

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

ALSO: Paul Worley, City Administrator; Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Ken Carson, Lieutenant Colonel-Police Department; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Eric Henson, Water and Sewer Director; Kurt McCord, Engineering Director; Christy Nicholson, Police Department; Jessie Mills, Fire Department; Mike Chavez, Fire Department; Cameron Dodd, 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

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**

Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the March 25, 2024 agenda as presented. Councilmember Edwards 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 March 11, 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer announced that Calhoun city offices will be closed Friday, March 29th in observance of Good Friday.

- B. Mayor Palmer gave the floor to Patty Defoor for a Quilt presentation honoring the following veterans from the Calhoun Fire Department: Nathan Meintz, US Navy; Adam (Tyler) Richardson, US Army. (copy attached)

6. **Zoning Hearings and Comments**

7. **Other Public Hearings**

- A. Public hearing of an ordinance to amend, strike or change certain sections of Part II – Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages, to establish Article VII – Licensing For Limited Service and Consumption of Wine or Malt Beverages on Premises of Licensee.
 - 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 ordinance.
 - Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- B. Public hearing of a beer and wine pouring license request at a location of 427 Hwy 53 East, by Alexia Prasinios d/b/a Gondola Pizza. Ms. Prasinios will also serve as the store manager.
 - Mayor Palmer stated that the applicant had requested to table the item as her husband is still out of the country, arriving back in the U.S. on Thursday, March 28th.

- C. Public hearing of a beer, wine and liquor pouring license transfer request, at a location of 106 North Wall Street, Suite 1, by Brittney Bullock. Ms. Bullock is transferring locations from 201 South Wall Street per City Code Section 6-53.
 - 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.

- Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. Old Business

- A. **WITHDRAWN:** Second reading of a front setback variance of 10 feet, to vary from 25 feet to 15 feet, at a location of 187 New Town Road (C50-007C), by David Fowler.
- Mayor Palmer stated that the application was withdrawn by the applicant and would be submitted at a later date.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the second reading of an annexation and zoning request from County residential to R-1B, at a location of 134 Jones Road (049-121), by Iris Retamar. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on April 4th and the public hearing on April 8th.

9. New Business

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an ordinance to amend, strike or change certain sections of Part II – Code of Ordinances, Appendix A – Zoning, Section 10.7 – Freestanding signs; to repeal all conflicting ordinances; to fix an effective date; and for other purposes. The public hearing will be on April 22nd.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a beer and wine package license request, at a location of 198 Peters Street, by Omar Food Mart, LLC (Mohsin Khan) d/b/a Mexican Mart. Asif Khan will serve as the store manager. Eligible for adoption April 22nd.
- C. Mayor Palmer read a request from Calhoun-Gordon County Airport Authority to reappoint Tommy Palmer to a three-year term ending June 30, 2027. Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer read a parade request on the traditional route by Calhoun High School for the CHS Homecoming Parade on Thursday October 10th @ 6:30 pm, with a rain date of Friday, October 11th at 3:30 p.m.
- Councilmember Denmon made a motion to approve the request subject to GDOT approval. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

10. Work Reports

- A. Paul Worley, City Administrator, gave a review of February 2024 general cash and hotel motel reports.
- Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved. (Copy attached)
- B. Kyle Ellis, Utilities Administrator, gave a review of the February 2024 utilities cash report.

- Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the report as presented. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved. (Copy attached)
- Erik Henson, Water and Sewer gave updates on the Brittany Drive and Mauldin Road water treatment plants, providing the most recent PFOA and PFOS results for both plants, as well as current pilot programs being tested for reduction of these contaminants. He also discussed what biosolids are and gave a short video showing the process for land applications. Concerned citizens present at the meeting were given contact information for Georgia EPD and given instructions on how to access the updates, as well as information relating to PFAS and PFOA on the city website at:
<https://www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-PFA-Update.pdf> (Copy attached)

C. George Govignon, City Attorney, had nothing to report.

11. Other written items not on the agenda

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the floor to Mr. William Brooks, of 1603 Pine Chapel Road, to address councilmembers regarding recent reports pertaining to water contamination.

Others speaking were as follows:

- Marissa Williams – 101 Dorsey Street
- Colleen Brooks – 1603 Pine Chapel Road
- Diane Kirby – 125 Creek Ridge Drive
- Donna Helm – 114 Johnson Drive
- Emma Bevens – 158 Promiseland Drive
- After everyone had spoken and had their concerns addressed, Mayor Palmer stated that the City has met all state and federal requirements pertaining to these contaminants, and just received the Georgia Association of Water Professionals Gold Award for being in full compliance for the previous year, 2023. He noted that City officials and staff all want what is best for our community and have been working diligently via the discussed pilot programs to determine the best long-term solution for the City. He also noted that the City will be providing monthly updates during a council meeting each month, as well as posting those updates on the City website. Once we have received results near nondetectable for PFAS, the City will provide drinking water free of charge from a connection found near the entrance to our Brittany Drive Water Treatment Plant, which will be identified by a nearby sign.

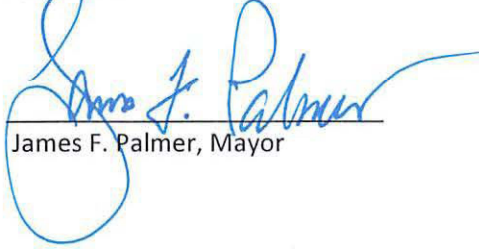
12. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

13. Motion to return to General Session

14. Motion to Adjourn

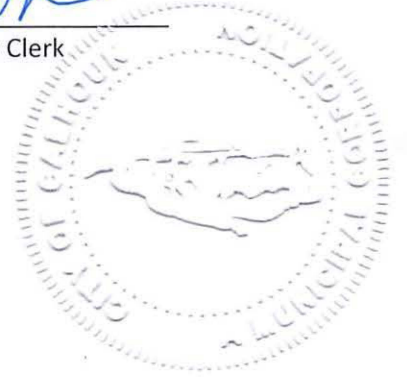
There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk



The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a national non-profit organization. It is a volunteer workforce of over 10,000 fabric artists located in every state around the country. Founder Catherine Roberts was a blue star mother who had a son fighting in Iraq. She had a dream of a soldier sitting on the side of his bed struggling with the effects of war. Then she saw him wrapped in a quilt, calm and comforted. QOV was born from her dream and in her sewing room. She used her networks to connect those who pieced quilt tops with long arm quilters. Her desire was to see troops welcomed home with love and gratitude. Our mission has expanded from those first 100 quilts in 2003 to include all service members and veterans. 21 years later the organization has awarded (as of February 29, 2024) – 377,384 quilts to veterans across the country.

Tonight, we are here to honor two local veterans who are Calhoun Firefighters. Mr. Nathan Meintz and Mr. Tyler Richardson.

I would like to tell you a bit about the quilt and what it means.

The top of the quilt is made of many pieces of various designs, fabrics, shapes and sizes. Their variety represents the community that we are. We are all different, but we come together to make a unique togetherness. Each stitch that holds the tops together represent the love, gratitude and prayers as we design, cut and stitch the pieces together.

The batting is the center of the quilt – it's warmth. We hope this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace and healing to the veteran who receives it.

The backing is the strength. It holds the many pieces of the quilt together. It represents the strength of the recipient, their family, our communities and our nation.

Quilting is actually the term of stitching those three layers together and making it a usable gift of love.

This Quilt of Valor brings a three-part message. First, we honor you for your service. We honor you for leaving all you hold dear and to stand in harms way in a time of crisis, protecting us from the effects of war.

Next, our quilters know that freedom is not free. The cost of our freedom is the dedication of lives of men and women like you and this quilt is meant to say “thank you” for your sacrifice.

And finally, this quilt is meant to offer comfort and warmth to you and to remind you that although your family and friends cannot be with you at all times, you are in all of our thoughts and our hearts as we make and award this Quilt of Valor to each of you.

2018-2021

Nathan Meintz served in the United States Navy for 3 years. He did his Naval Boot Camp training at Naval Station Great Lakes in Chicago IL. He served on the USS Ralph Johnson as a Control Man Fireman. He was deployed in the 5th fleet and 7th fleet areas of operation.

He received the Navy unit commendation, the Navy “E” Ribbon, Navy good conduct medal, Global War on Terrorism expeditionary medal, Global war on terrorism service medal and Sea Service deployment ribbon.

The Domain of the Golden Dragon certificate is given to crew members of ships which cross the International Date line.

The Shellback certificate is for Sailors who crossed the Equator.

Tyler Richardson served with the Army National Guard for 6 years from 2016-2022. His basic training and One Station Unit training took place at Ft. Benning GA as an Infantryman.

Tyler was assigned to A Company 3rd Battalion, 121st Infantry Division, 48th Brigade. He was a machine gunner and served as Team Leader.

He was deployed to Afghanistan from January 2019 to July 2019 as part of Operation Freedom Sentinel and attached to ODA (Operational Detachment Alphas) as a machine gunner.

He received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Army Commendation Medal with C device, Army Achievement Medal with C device and the Afghan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star.

So, as we wrap each of you in your quilt and give you a quilty hug, know that the hug not only comes from us, but also from every member of the Quilts of Valor Family across the country.

On behalf of the Quilts of Valor Foundation and a grateful nation, with our deepest appreciation, we thank you for your service to our country with this Quilt of Valor Award. Welcome Home Gentlemen.

Patti DeFoor

March 25, 2024

Calhoun City Council Meeting

PFAS Update 3/25

Calhoun Utilities has been overwhelmed with calls and emails related to PFAS over the past several weeks. If you were unable to speak directly to a customer service representative and left a message, we have been working diligently to return each and every call. PFAS information and future updates can also be found on our website at cityofcalhoun-ga.com/pfas, and the Calhoun Utilities Facebook page.

Plant Updates

Brittany Drive WTP:

We have ordered carbon for the 4th filter, and Calgon Carbon has provided a preliminary install date for the first week of April. We will also exchange GAC in Filter # 1 at the same time due to PFAS beginning to breakthrough. Finish water samples will then be collected and analyzed for PFAS from all of the filters combined. Lab results will then be expedited and provided once they are received. Once we have received results near nondetectable for PFAS, we will provide drinking water free of charge from a connection found near the entrance to our Brittany Dr WTP. This connection will be identified by a nearby sign.

Mauldin Road WTP:

3 pilot study skids have arrived at the plant. 2 pilots are currently in operation, with the other one expected to start up this week. Our consulting engineers have begun the evaluation of installing GAC in the existing filter beds. GAC has been ordered for the first 4 filters and have an estimated delivery date of the first week of April.

Some of the common questions we have received along with the answers we are providing are as follows:

- **Which treatment facility treats my water?**

Customers in Gordon County East of I-75 are predominantly served by the Brittany Dr. WTP. Customers west of I-75 including most of the City of Calhoun are served by the Mauldin Rd Facility.

- **What are the PFAS levels at each facility?**

PFAS levels fluctuate due to changes in the environment. Our January test results show the two most studied compounds PFOA & PFOS for each facility are as follows:

	Brittany Drive WTP	Mauldin Road WTP
PFOA	7.9 ppt	21 ppt
PFOS	8.4 ppt	14 ppt

- **What is sludge or biosolids?**

This is from an EPA article on biosolids. The terms biosolids and sludge are often used interchangeably. Biosolids are a product of the wastewater treatment process. During wastewater treatment the liquids are separated from the solids. Those solids are then treated physically to produce a semi-solid, nutrient-rich product known as biosolids.

Biosolids must meet all federal and state requirements. Examples of uses include application to agricultural land and reclamation sites. When applied to land at the appropriate agronomic rate, biosolids provide a number of benefits including nutrient addition, improved soil structure, and water reuse. Land application of biosolids also can have economic and waste management benefits such as conservation of landfill space; reduced demand on non-renewable resources like phosphorus; and a reduced demand for synthetic fertilizers.

- **Does the City Land apply biosolids?**

Over 50% of all the biosolids produced in the United States are land applied. Calhoun Utilities currently does not land apply biosolids. However, we are presently and in the past been in full compliance with all state and federal regulations related to the land application and disposal of biosolids. Any questions or concerns related to the land application of biosolids and permit compliance can be directed to the Georgia EPD at [770-387-4900](tel:770-387-4900) or email askEPD@gaepd.org

To date, neither of the water or wastewater treatment plants have been in violation of any state or federal regulation concerning PFAS. Last week, Calhoun Utilities was notified that all 3 of our treatment plants received the Georgia Association of Water Professionals' Gold Award for being in full compliance for the previous calendar year.

PFAS has been labeled as an Emerging Contaminant by the EPA because it is not yet regulated. While many communities have not yet tested for PFAS, more and more are discovering that PFAS contamination is not just an isolated event.

Due to the large consumer demand, manufacturers have produced PFAS for thousands of products for the last several decades. Until the importation and manufacturing of PFAS is federally banned, the City will be forced to filter and dispose a contaminant that Calhoun has never profited from.

This concludes my PFAS update, and we now will play a brief video illustrating the process of biosolids.

General Government Cash Report

General Government Operating Account

General Fund	Checking	\$ 3,698,741.50
Restricted Cash - Excise	Checking	61,405.00
Cash	Pay Pal	355,249.97
Solid Waste	Checking	252,431.65
Confiscated Assets	Checking	-
School Trust	Checking	236,286.51
Municipal Court	Checking	17,511.80
Hotel-Motel Fund	Checking	(5,845.86)
Recreation	Checking	247,996.84
Recreation - Hotel / Motel	Checking	186,692.80
SPLOST 2018	Checking	-
Golf	Checking	320,182.85
Golf Renewal & Replacement Reserves	Checking	-
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	Checking	2,304,031.47
OPIOD	Checking	26,214.93
Total Operating		<u>7,700,899.46</u>

Reserves - Restricted / Renewal & Replacement	Savings	0.35
Specified Funds / Renewal & Replacement	Savings	1,487,267.36
Total Reserves		<u>1,487,267.71</u>

2018 SPLOST - Uncommitted	Checking	4,160,540.25
2018 SPLOST - Committed	Checking	688,572.90
Total		<u>4,849,113.15</u>

Fire Department Donations	Public Checking	6,154.78
Revolving Loan	Checking	419,883.44
Police #1 - Forfeiture (Settled)	Money Market	6,824.97
Police #2 - Forfeiture (Pending)	Checking	45,553.15
Police #3 - Fed Funds	Money Market	30,032.79
Police #4 - Evidence	Checking	58,554.56
Police #5 - ICE Funds	Checking	17,404.08
Police PEPI Account	Checking	759.45
School Debt Service	Savings	3,959,836.91
City of Calhoun Investment Account	Money Market	5,583,542.45
Total Special Funds, Reserves and Savings		<u>10,128,546.58</u>

GRAND TOTAL - 2/29/2024 **\$ 24,165,826.90**

Component Unit Cash

Downtown Development Authority	\$ 43,774.89
Downtown Development Authority - Hotel/Motel Tax	147,044.58
	<u><u>\$ 190,819.47</u></u>

General Government Investments

City of Calhoun - Various Investments

Reserves held in investments - \$3,426,352.73	\$ 12,309,418.34
ARPA	-
Golf- \$600,000 reserves held in Investments	1,010,668.37
	<u><u>\$ 13,320,086.71</u></u>

Hotel/Motel 2/29/24 Report

Amount Received from GMA & Paid to Vendor for FY24

Vendor #	Vendor	Jul paid in Sep 2023	Aug paid in Oct 2023	Sep paid in Nov 2023	Oct paid in Dec 2023	Nov paid in Jan 2024	Dec paid in Feb 2024	Jan paid in Mar 2024	Feb paid in Apr 2024	Mar paid in May 2024	Apr paid in Jun 2024	May paid in Jul 2024	Jun paid in Aug 2024	Total
29	Chamber of Commerce	\$ 45,392.07	\$ 31,338.86	\$ 26,582.80	\$ 48,211.41	\$ 41,383.54	\$ 31,715.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 224,624.22
1346	City of Calhoun-Unrestricted	38,907.49	26,861.88	22,785.26	41,324.07	35,471.61	27,184.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	192,535.05
1346	City of Calhoun-Restricted	6,484.58	4,476.98	3,797.54	6,887.35	5,911.93	4,530.79	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,089.17
3132	Calhoun Recreation Dept.	12,969.16	8,953.96	7,595.09	13,774.69	11,823.87	9,061.58	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,178.35
	Total Paid By H/M Fund	<u>\$ 103,753.30</u>	<u>\$ 71,631.68</u>	<u>\$ 60,760.69</u>	<u>\$ 110,197.52</u>	<u>\$ 94,590.95</u>	<u>\$ 72,492.65</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 513,426.79</u>
	Paid to Industrial Development by City of Calhoun	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 60,000.00</u>
	Paid to Downtown Development by City of Calhoun	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>

Balance in City Held Accounts as of 2/29/2024

	Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2023	Revenue	Expenses	Balance as of 2/29/2024
City of Calhoun-Unrestricted	\$ 911,723.61	\$ 192,535.05	\$ (60,000.00)	\$ 1,044,258.66
City of Calhoun-Restricted	\$ 20,680.23	\$ 32,089.17	\$ (16,000.00)	\$ 36,769.40
Downtown Development	\$ 121,478.67	\$ 100,000.00	\$ (74,434.09)	\$ 147,044.58
Calhoun Recreation Dept.	\$ 162,933.17	\$ 64,178.35	\$ (40,418.72)	\$ 186,692.80

Utilities Cash Report

Utility Operating Account

Electric	Checking	\$ 2,176,103.28
Water & Sewer	Checking	3,614,448.79
Telecommunications	Checking	1,660,966.93
Utilities Administration	Checking	1,415,775.92
Total Operating		8,867,294.92

Electric Reserves & Unrestricted Investments	Reserves - Checking	3,475,507.78
Telecom Reserves & Unrestricted Investments	Reserves - Checking	517,527.50
Water / Sewer Reserves & Unrestricted Investments	Reserves - Checking	2,507,621.03
Bond Sinking Fund	Savings	667,553.76
Utility Deposits	Checking	1,074,166.32
City of Calhoun Shuler Bond	Savings	38,468.48
City of Calhoun Investment Account	Money Market	24,345,054.17
Total Savings & Reserves		32,625,899.04

GRAND TOTAL - 2/29/2024

\$ 41,493,193.96

Utilities Investments

Electric	\$ 7,553,719.50
Water	\$ 16,144,874.36
Sewer	\$ 3,423,989.56
Telecommunications	\$ 1,079,188.10
City of Calhoun - Various Investments	\$ 28,201,771.52