



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 8, 2017-7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

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

ALSO: Paul Worley, Assistant City Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager/City Planner; George Govignon, City Attorney; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Jerry Crawford, Water /Wastewater Director; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Andrea Bramlett, Finance Director.

CALHOUN CITY SCHOOLS: Dr. Michele Taylor, Superintendent; Alvin Long, Board Member; Rhoda Washington, Board Member; David Scoggins, Board Member; Eddie Reeves, Board Member; Tony Swink, Board Member; and Dee Wrisley, Chief Financial Officer.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order:**

Welcome

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

Invocation

Councilman Edwards gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. **Amend or Approve Proposed Agenda**

Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the May 8, 2017 agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Barton gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

3. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the regular minutes of the April 24, 2017, City Council meeting. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

4. **Mayor's Comments:**

None

5. **Council Comments:**

A. Councilman Edwards submitted April reports as follows

1) Water, Sewer, and Engineering

Water and Sewer Systems Active Projects

- The 2" Galvanized Line Replacement Project -The project as a whole is approximately 75% complete. Thor Drive, Hunt's Subdivision, Spring Valley, Davis Road, Edwards Street, Fox Street, Short Street, and West Street are all complete. The area being sections of Cherry Hill Dr., Sherwood Dr., Highland Ct., and Valley Cir. is nearing completion. The next proposed sections are Lewis Dr., Cindy Ln., Kirk Dr. off Peters Street and Beamer Cir., Overland Dr., and Emory Ln. off Beamer Road.
- 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 to and approved by EPD. The chemical feed systems are under construction.
- The Nutrient Trading Monitoring Pilot Program - 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 II – Submittals have been approved and MCCs are being built.
- South Calhoun By-Pass Utility relocations- The section of water main along Union Grove Road is nearing completion. Crews have begun work on the area at Hwy 53 East.
- Second Interconnect with Chatsworth on Maple Grove Church Road has been completed. Chatsworth has a line extension under construction to our new meter.
- 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. The contractor has completed the CCTV work and will begin pipe bursting the week of May 8th.

Water & Sewer Projects in Development

- Airport Sanitary Sewer Relocation- Relocating approximately 4500 feet of sewer main to accommodate the airport expansion.
- S.R. 156 Water Main Relocation (GDOT/ RR Bridge Replacement @ Ranger) - GDOT has contacted us regarding the attachment of the new water main to the proposed bridge.
- North Wall Street and Redbud Road Intersection improvements- GDOT has asked for an estimate to relocate any utilities in conflict with the proposed project. Hwy 41 South at Lynn Creek (GDOT Widening Project)

Projects in Engineering Conceptual Design

Sewer

- Blackwood Creek Trunk Sewer Replacement
- Yarborough Street Replacement Sewer
- Louise Ave., Cherry St., and Florence Ave. Sewer Replacement

Water

- Bellwood Road Water Transmission Main
- Curtis Parkway Water Main
- Reeves Station Water Main (replacing existing 6" C. I. with an 8")
- Second Interconnect with Pickens County

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 275,141,450
- Daily average: 9,161,682
- Wells: 115,851,450
- Big Springs: 0
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 42.1%
- Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 39.4%
- Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 33.18%
- Rainfall for March – 6.02"
- Due to the persistent drought, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has revised the current drought response to a Level 1 Drought declaration for Georgia (see Map). No additional watering restrictions have been issued above those already in place for the past several years. The City of Calhoun Water System does not have any type of water supply shortage! Outdoor watering as per the existing guidelines may continue under the Level 1 declaration. The existing outdoor restrictions and the Georgia Drought Response

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

Map can be found at <http://www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com/public-notice-level-1-drought/>

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 5.383 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 6, average suspended effluent of 12, and an average COD of 39.

4) Water Distribution

- 272 work orders completed, 15 new water connections, 21 water service leaks repaired, 15 water main leaks repaired, 15 water services changed to new main lines, 162 meter changes, 49 utility locates called in for work orders, 519 utility locates responses.
- Completed installing 3,580 feet of 8" ductile iron pipe along Pleasant Hill Road to catch several new connections and tie up to dead end 8" lines. Also improves the flow to the northeast corner of Gordon County.

5) Waste Water Collection

- 2,650' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 279 utility locates completed, 6,600' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 7 new sewer connections installed, 5 sanitary sewer services repaired.

6) Police Department

- Made 607 cases with 7 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$44,974
- Issued 384 warnings
- Investigated 69 highway accidents, 32 private property accidents
- Escorts unavailable per 911
- Incident reports unavailable per 911
- Alarm responses unavailable per 911
- Miles patrolled: 42,799
- Calls for service by E-911 unavailable per 911

911's NEW CAD SYSTEM IS NOT COMPLETELY FUNCTIONAL AT THIS TIME

7) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 425
- Court cases dropped- 55
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 185
- Number of Probation cases- 18
- Failure to appear- 49
- Subpoenas served- 16

8) Court Services and Enforcement

The following streets were maintained by inmate trash detail for the month of March:

Henderson Bend, Thomas Street, Echota Street & Mill Village area, McDaniel Station, Curtis Parkway, North Henderson Bend, and River Side Drive.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

A total of 55 bags of trash were collected from the above streets.

9) Fire Department – Suppression

- Responded to 181 calls for service for the suppression division, with 2 fire incidents.
- Responded to 131 emergency medical service calls.
- Responded to 6 hazardous conditions incidents.
- Responded to 5 false alarms or false calls, 27 good intent.
- Assisted with BBQ Boogie and Blues festival, having crews stationed downtown for medic duties, and gave out safety education materials.
- Continued flow testing of fire hydrants in the city.
- Completed all routine vehicle and station maintenance.

Training Division

- Department completed 685 hours of training.

Training consisted of:

- Streets and territory, pumping of apparatus, and aerial apparatus use.
- 6 new Firefighters are at the midpoint of EMT training, now testing for Basic EMT. The Advanced EMT section of class will continue in a couple of weeks being complete by August.

10) Fire Inspection Department

- 101 total reported activities/inspections completed during the month.
- Completed 29 annual inspections and 24 requested inspections.
- Performed 8 follow up/re-inspections.
- Performed 30 consultations.
- Completed all routine vehicle and station maintenance.

Training Division

- Lt. Duvall attended the City Safety meeting and site inspection.
- Inspections attended LEPC meeting.
- Tagged and GPS located fire hydrants put in service at Parks place.
- Attended North GA Code Officials Association meeting.
- Lt. Fox attended Child Car Seat Technician recertification class at Whitfield Fire station 8.

11) Building Inspection Department

Issued 28 permits for an estimated cost of \$1,545,000, collected \$3,857 in permit fees. This included 4 new residential, 3 residential remodel, 3 residential HVAC, and 84 total inspections.

B. Mayor Pro Tem Barton submitted March reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- May is National Electrical Safety Month. The City of Calhoun would like to help promote electric safety to its customers by highlighting some common electrical dangers faced in and around their homes.
- Consider the Cord; inspect appliance and extension cords for damage and keep them away from hot or sharp objects. Roughly 3,300 home fires originate each year from extension cords.
- Exercise caution when using ladders cleaning or painting near the service drop. Ladders can conduct electricity; keep them at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Don't use electrical appliances or extension cords near pools.
- Keep balloons, kites, fishing lines and drones away from overhead power lines and electrical crews.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line. If you see one, report it.
- The safety of our community, our customers and our employees is always our number one priority. Electricity is an important part of our lives. Use it safely because safety is no accident.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 94
- Completed and closed- 94

Consisting of:

- Capital construction- 2
 - Street and security lighting-26
 - Distribution Maintenance-25
 - Outages/trouble calls- 18
 - Meter maintenance/replacement-7
 - New customer meter sets-2
 - Electric locate tickets processed- 196
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- The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for April is projected to be 34,900,000 kilowatthours. This is about 500,000 kWh or 1.5% less than last year. Reduction is primarily due to the mild winter and reduced large Industrial loads. Actual numbers will be released later this week.
 - Alan McCormick will celebrate 30 years of service with the City of Calhoun on May 18th and both he and the City are looking forward to many more years to come.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

2) **Telecommunications Department**

- Installed one new internet and one new point-to-point circuits and moved one customer to their new location.
- Added 95 megabits of bandwidth to existing customer circuits.
- New access system replacement project is 44.5% complete.
- Water Construction started fiber line construction, boring and installing pipe along Dews Pond Road to Brittany Drive Water Plant.
- Completed removal of SONET equipment at the central office. Have two node sites remaining.
- Added camera to Customer Service waiting area for customer service representatives know when customers are waiting for service.
- Opened 18 and closed 15 work orders.

3) **Geographic Information Systems**

- Used new 2017 parcel data from the county to update GIS parcel maps.
- Attended US 2020 Census Workshop held here in Calhoun.
- Ran annual asset report for Electric Department.
- Performed field mapping of new fiber line construction to Brittany Drive well.
- Worked with Engineering Department to run water modeling sessions.
- Updated water meter and infrastructure data for Water map
- Updated physical building addresses for Billing Department
- Updated fiber map
- Added new fire pre-plans for buildings for Fire Department
- Added new sections to Storm Water mapping.
- Updated City and GIS web sites

4) **Downtown Development Authority**

- The DDA director attended a Business Engagement Committee meeting; a Young Professionals meeting; a CVB Tourism meeting; Mainstreet 201 training & Chamber of Commerce Booster breakfast. The DDA & HPC held their regularly scheduled meetings. There was 1 new business opening in the Downtown Historic Business District. The DDA & Chamber of Commerce CVB partnered to develop a marketing package for new businesses. The package will be distributed at the end of April.
- The planning for the annual Barbeque, Boogie & Blues in downtown is underway. There will be tractor rides, arts & crafts vendors, food vendors, & live music featuring Kurt Thomas and The Fly Betty Band. Along with the annual events there will be new additions including a car show cruise-in, & petting zoo. The dates are April 28th & 29th. We look forward to the event and hope to have a record crowd.

5) **Safety Committee**

- The safety committee met on April 4th and the topic was Vehicle Safety Inspections.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

- A safety inspection was completed on April 11th at the Recreation Department.
- Vehicle accidents: 1
- Workers compensation: 1

C. Councilwoman Palazzolo submitted March reports as follows:

1) **Street Department**

- Completed 32 shop and 27 street department work orders.
- Installed 4 new street signs.
- Repaired potholes and utility cuts using approximately 28 tons of asphalt.
- Cut and removed trees that had fallen on the mountain bike trail.
- Worked the annual BBQ boogie and blues festival downtown.

2) **Cemetery Department**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 11 grave sites.
- Sold 12 new grave spaces.

3) **Parks Department**

- The grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room while mowing and weed eating downtown areas.
- The maintenance crew maintained designated buildings downtown.
- Removed graffiti from back wall of McConnell community center.
- Patched holes and painted conference room and hall at the depot.
- Finished sealing windows at the utilities building.

4) **Animal Control**

- Housed 18 dogs and 1 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 3
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 7
- Number of cats rescued: 1
- 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: 12
- Number of bite cases: 4
- Citations issues: 2

5) **Calhoun Recycling Center**

Calhoun Recycling Center															
April		OCC		Loose OCC		Plastics 1&2		Paperboard		Mixed Plastics		Glass		Aluminum	Steel Cans
Price		\$170.00 Per Ton		\$135.00		\$0.05 Per lb.		\$100.00 Per Ton				\$15.00 Per Ton		\$0.45 Per lb.	\$ 0.045 Per lb.
Date	Shipped To	Number Of Bales	Weight (TONS)	Pounds	Weight (TONS)	Boxes	Weight (POUNDS)	Boxes	Weight (TONS)	Boxes	Weight (POUNDS)	Bin (Roll Off)	Weight (TONS)	Weight (Pounds)	Weight (Pounds)
4/4/2017	Carusstar			1,880	0.9										
4/11/2017	Carusstar			1,290	0.6										
4/11/2017	Marglen					52	2,971								
4/18/2017	Carusstar			1,400	0.7										
4/11/2017	Carusstar							46	3.7						
4/11/2017	Marglen					44	2,984								
4/23/2017	Carusstar			1,480	0.7										
4/12/2017	Biddie														769
Total		0 Boxes		6,050 lb.	2.9Tons	96 Boxes	5,955 lb.	46 Boxes	3.65Tons						
Revenue					\$ 391.50		\$ 297.73		\$ 370.00						\$ 34.61
April Revenue			\$2,286.86			From Chick-fil-e									
*4/25/2017 Scrap Metal Newell Recycling			7,000 lb.	\$350.00											
*4/21/2017 Scrap Metal Newell Recycling			16,800 lb.	\$843.00											

6) Recreation Department

PROGRAMS:

Baseball/Softball – Regular season games began April 10. Adult League games began April 18

Tennis – CHS and CMS – held matches during the month, Adult Leagues are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; Calhoun Tennis Academy – Tuesday and Thursday; JR USTA Tournaments – April 8-9; April 14-16; STA Community Tennis Tournament April 22- 30.

STARS – Stars program met on Saturday, April 22. There were 11 participants.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

FACILITY USAGE:

Billy Bearden Recreation Center:

Meeting Room – 4 events Community Room – 3 events

Playground Pavilion – 18 events

Ratner Pavilion – 4 event

WEBSITE USAGE:

CalhounRec.com

4,174 views

7- Posts

1,037 - Likes

1,899 - Searches

Facebook Page

3,136 – People Reached

3,324 – People Engaged

2,080 - Likes

11 Posts

Best Performance – 5 – 6pm & Fridays

Average User Age – 25 to 34

TOURNAMENTS:

April 29 – USA Softball of Georgia – 1 day tournament with 37 teams. The estimated economic impact - \$90,188.

2017 MAY EVENTS

May 6 – 7 – USA Softball of Georgia – 14U National Qualifier

May 20 – USA Softball of Georgia – Invitational Tournament

May 27 – USA Softball of Georgia – Invitational Tournament

D. Councilman Hammond submitted March reports as follows:

1) **Northwest Georgia Regional Commission**

- **Revolving Loan Fund:** In 1983 a \$300,000 UDAG (Urban Development Action Grant) loan was made to Carriage Carpet. This was the beginning of the Revolving Loan program. The program has resulted in 692 jobs created. The program currently has a 2% interest rate with a 50% match from another source required from the loan applicant. There is currently approximately \$800,000 available to be loaned. \$2.4 million dollars have been utilized from the \$300,000 initial grant of 1983.
- **Census Planning:** Every ten years a census of our citizens is completed. Redistricting on a congressional level is based on population numbers. Multiple grants are available as well based on our poverty rate. The first meeting regarding the census will be tomorrow at the Gordon County Agricultural Center beginning at 9:00 AM.
- **Workforce:** The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act provides education, training and employment opportunities for individuals in Northwest Georgia. The RDC works in a fifteen-county area that includes Bartow, Catoosa,

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Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, and Whitfield counties. The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission administers the federally-funded program for the chief elected officials in our fifteen counties.

The regional unemployment rate is 5%; Gordon County unemployment rate is also 5%; the current State unemployment rate is 5.1%. We now have employment viability in our area. Manufacturing has also increased in Gordon County.

Georgia Trend Magazine places Gordon County as number nine (9) in the State in rankings as far as growing communities. Average salaries are \$42,400 in Bartow County; \$35,000 in Murray County; \$42,500 in Whitfield County; \$41,000 in Floyd County; and Gordon County at \$38,000. Most is attributed to manufacturing jobs raising the standard income in these areas.

- **Area on Aging:** The Georgia Department of Human Resources has designated the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and in this capacity, the RDC plans, coordinates and administers programs for older Georgians throughout the planning and service area. An Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, which includes consumers, advises on senior programs. The provision of services is administered by the AAA through contracts with service-provider agencies. This program provides services such as meals on wheels, homebound clients, individuals suffering with memory loss, and care provider respite. These services are all available to citizens in Gordon County who need assistance.
- **Planning:** The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission assists member local governments with implementing the Georgia Planning Act of 1989. Local comprehensive plans address community needs and objectives for economic development, community facilities, natural and historic resources, housing, and land use. Plans must be updated every ten years.

The NWGRC encourages counties and municipalities to work together to identify common problems and opportunities and to seek countywide solutions through joint plans. Local plans were used to develop a joint regional plan that identifies opportunities for counties and municipalities to work together on a multi-county basis. The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a regional plan for the 15-county State Service Delivery Region 1. The NWGRC also assists local governments with preparing solid waste management plans as required by the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act. These services are implemented in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Further information on planning in Georgia can be found online at GeorgiaPlanning.com.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

- The RDC is currently working on their annual budget for 2017/2018 and will be meeting in Rome tomorrow to finalize the budget for presentation to the full Board. Dr. Michele Taylor is the Governor's appointee for this Board.
- The RDC is assisting the City of Calhoun with their Comprehensive Plan, which must be updated every ten years. Larry Vickery, City Planner, will be working with Jim Ledbetter of Gordon County in revising the plan. He will be conducting a meeting with Calhoun representatives that currently sit on the RDC to talk about the vision for the City for the next ten years.
- The RDC is also working on its Comprehensive Plan for its region of 15 counties and multiple cities. The RDC will hold its first meeting on the assessment in Calhoun on May 17th, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. A follow-up meeting will be held on June 28th, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Both meetings will be held at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center.

2) **Library**

The Calhoun-Gordon County Library is jointly funded by the Calhoun City Council and Gordon County Commissioners. It is an Authority made up of volunteer servants that are appointed by the governing bodies. The City currently owns the building, which was updated last year with SPLOST funds.

- There are 10,998 library card holders, 5,894 library visitors, and 4,796 total circulation.
- There were 161 story time attendance, 50 adult program attendance, 133 digital new users, 203 e-books, 176 audio books, 1,054 computer logins, and 17,252 Website visits.
- Free Basic English classes are offered every Saturday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Free child care is offered for those that are attending the Basic English classes.

3) **Tom B. David Airport**

- The Airport is an authority supported by both Gordon County and the City of Calhoun. The airport is the 7th 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

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positive local economic impact. The Airport Board will be meeting tomorrow at 12:00 P.M.

7. **Public Hearing and Comments:**

A. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing of an annexation and zoning request of R-1 for 1.32 acres at a location of 106 East 40th Drive by Jack and Mary Jenkins. The Zoning Advisory Board met on May 4, 2017.

- Assistant City Administrator Worley stated that all of the legal requirements had been met.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that the Zoning Advisory Board (ZAB) met on May 4, 2017. The ZAB recommended that the annexation be approved with the stipulation that a letter of acknowledgement must be signed by the applicants stating that they had been made aware of limited fire protection available by the City due to the distance of fire hydrants in their proximity.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments beginning with the applicant or their representative. There were none. Mayor Palmer closed the hearing and called for a motion on the annexation.

Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the annexation with the stipulation that a letter of acknowledgement must be signed by the applicants stating their awareness of the limited fire protection available by the City due to the distance of fire hydrants in their proximity. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- Mayor Palmer called for a motion pertaining to the zoning request of R-1 for the same property.

Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the zoning request of R-1. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing of an annexation and zoning request of C-2 for 14.81 acres at a location of Parcel #058-060 by Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores. The Zoning Advisory Board met on May 4, 2017.

- Assistant City Administrator Worley stated that all of the legal requirements had been met.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that the Zoning Advisory Board (ZAB) met on May 4, 2017. The ZAB recommended that the annexation be approved.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments beginning with the applicant or their representative. A representative of the applicant was present, Mr. Rick Shuffield. Mr. Shuffield, Vice President of Real Estate & Development for Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, 10601 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK, 73120, came before the Council. Mr. Shuffield thanked the Council for their consideration of the annexation and zoning request by Loves Travel Stops.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

He did request adding a stipulation, if approved, that the annexation only goes through if the project is completed. This is per the request of the current property owner. Mr. Shuffield asked Council members if they had any questions of him. There were none.

- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments. Debra Owens, of 148 Timber Ridge Lane, Calhoun, addressed the Council regarding her concerns of a needed traffic light at the intersection of Union Grove and Belwood Roads. She stated that she felt this was a GDOT created problem that should have been addressed when they removed the four way stop to put in the new interchange. She stated this development would be positive for all involved and she would be willing to do her fair share as an owner and a developer in contributing to getting the traffic signal placed. She felt all involved parties should work together to ensure the GDOT takes care of this problem.
- Councilman Hammond stated that he had spoken with Mr. Shuffield last week and he felt that as a group all sides could apply some pressure and we could get the GDOT to make the adjustments that desperately need to be made. He stated he felt everyone, including the City of Calhoun, would be at the table to try and make this happen in a timely fashion. He asked Mr. Shuffield how many employees his company hoped to have employed at the location. Mr. Shuffield stated the final numbers would depend upon the final decision on the restaurants, which has not been finalized by their partners. However, he stated he expected to employ a base minimum of 40 employees, but felt the total would be closer to 60.
- Mayor Palmer stated that the City shares Ms. Owens concern and that he had discussed the safety concerns with Representative John Meadows more than once and that there had also been talks with Dwayne Comer and his staff at GDOT in Cartersville. Mayor Palmer opened the floor for other public comments.
- Mr. Ted King of 540 Iron Mountain Road, NW, Adairsville, GA, and owner of the property of the proposed Love's location, addressed the Council stating that he agreed with Ms. Owens comments and that he was willing to do anything necessary in an effort to move the project forward. He stated he felt that if the City and County, Ms. Owens, himself, and Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, come together we should accomplish rectifying the current safety concerns. He felt this project benefits everyone.
- Mayor Palmer called for additional public comments. There were none.
- Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion on the annexation.

Councilman Hammond made a motion to accept the recommendation of the ZAB and approve the annexation. Mayor Pro Tem Barton gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- Mayor Palmer called for a motion pertaining to the zoning request of C-2 for the same property.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to accept the recommendation of the ZAB and approve the zoning change to C-2. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

C. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for a sign variance request by Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores at a location of Parcel #058-060. The sign variance request is 160 feet for the height of the sign and variance of 812 square feet for the face of the sign. The Zoning Advisory Board met on May 4, 2017.

- Assistant City Administrator Worley stated that all of the legal requirements had been met.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that the Zoning Advisory Board (ZAB) met on May 4, 2017. The ZAB recommended that the variance request be approved.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments beginning with the applicant or their representative.
- A representative of the applicant was present, Mr. Rick Shuffield. Mr. Shuffield, Vice President of Real Estate & Development for Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, 10601 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK, 73120, came before the Council. Mr. Shuffield stated the sign variance was very important to Love's and served as a safety issue to ensure that trucks have ample time and capability to see the sign and prepare to exit without causing any traffic issues.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for additional public comments. There were none.
- Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and asked for a motion regarding the sign variance request.

Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to accept the recommendation of the ZAB and approve the sign variance request. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

D. Mayor Palmer opened the first public hearing for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 Annual Operating Budget and Capital Plan beginning with the Calhoun City Schools Board of Education.

- Dr. Michele Taylor, Calhoun City Schools Superintendent, addressed the Council, presenting the proposed budget with a comparison of the General Fund Budget for FY2017 and FY2018. Revenues increased on the proposed budget by \$1.4M due to an increase in the QBE State Revenue of \$790K, and an increase in local tax revenue of \$656K. The tax revenue is based on a two % increase in the digest and a collection rate of 98 %. The main increase in expenditures is due to mandated increases by the State. The Governor has approved a two % increase to the state salary scale for certified employees. This budget shows a two % increase for all Calhoun City Schools employees which is approximately \$543K. The employer portion of our Teacher Retirement System (TRS) increased from 14.27 % to 16.81 %, and the budget impact is an increase of \$455K. The

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employer portion of health insurance for classified employees increased from \$846 per employee per month to \$945 per employee per month, for a total increase of \$71K. Every year employees earn advanced degrees and this increase to their salary and benefits is included at \$84K. These areas are what you see as far as the differences in our General Fund.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public for the City of Calhoun portion of the fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 Annual Operating Budget and Capital Plan.
- Assistant City Administrator Worley stated that all legal notices have been properly placed and given.
- Assistant City Administrator Worley addressed the Council presenting changes to the proposed budget since the last budget work session on April 24, 2017. We were very fortunate this year in putting our Water and Sewer Budget together. We have been able to utilize our GEFA Loan low interest financing for several of our large capital projects that have been recently completed, or are in the process of completing. Also, 2005 SPLOST revenues have also been very beneficial in tackling a lot of the major capital costs. We continue to struggle with the decrease in sewer revenues. This year we are budgeting an 18% decrease in industrial sewer revenues. We had a 2% increase in residential and a 5% increase in commercial. The Sewer Fund is balanced at \$8.1M. The Water Fund is balanced at \$12,955,000. The Electric Department is balanced at \$37,631,000. Telecommunications is balanced at \$1,186,000. The utility Internal Service Fund is balanced at \$3,041,000. The biggest challenge in the last two weeks has been the General Fund. We started with a \$456,598 deficit. We were instructed by a couple of Council members to come up with a plan to balance the budget without a millage increase or using our reserves. The following changes have been made to come up with those savings; eliminating the salary portion of the City Planner in Community Development, a savings of \$68,000; reduce the Mayor and Council contingency fund from \$100K down to \$10K, a savings of \$90K; cut a position in our Court Services Department, a savings of \$58k; a budget increase in franchise fees and transfers from water and sewer of \$57K in additional revenue; a \$3K decrease in the DDA advertising budget; we have a proposed change in policy to fund our DDA Fasade Grant Program from the ½% the DDA receives from the Hotel Motel Fund instead of the General Fund, a savings of \$15K; Local Option Sales Tax has been trending up the last few months so we feel comfortable budgeting an additional \$30K; increasing anticipated back taxes \$20k; a 5% decrease in property and liability insurance, a savings of \$5K; a proposed increase of 10% on all of our building permit fees, generating \$11K while keeping us competitive with our surrounding communities; a proposal to remove the contributions to our non-profit agencies consisting of the Voluntary Action Center, Arts Center, Boys and Girls Club, Domestic Violence, and Winners Club, that have been in the City budget for many years, saving \$26,500; a decrease in health insurance from a 10% increase to a 7.25% increase with increased deductibles, saving \$44K; maintaining current levels of staffing in the departments for \$43K; reducing transfers to recreation by \$2,300; decreasing our transfers to golf by \$75K by increasing green fees by \$2 and golf cart fees by \$1; a proposed decrease in

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overtime for fire, street, cemetery, and police departments totaling \$30K, resulting in a decrease in our festivals and activities that generate the overtime; cut \$5K for street patching; decreased fuel costs by \$9,400. These changes not only eliminates the \$456K deficit that we had two weeks ago, but gives us \$138K surplus. We could completely eliminate the Mayor and Council Contingency Fund, giving us an additional \$10K. The Council also expressed interest in a two % cost of living raise for the employees, which would be \$148K. The change in the Mayor Council Contingency would allow us to balance the budget, and also provide the two % cost of living increase to our employees.

Councilman Hammond stated that we are still struggling with insurance. The increase of 10% is \$300K, so we are looking at what is reasonable for what our staff pay for employee coverage and for family. Employees currently pay \$50 per month for single coverage and \$211 for family. We are going to have to make some cuts and it isn't going to be fun, but we are going to have to do it. We want to give a cost of living raise just like the State gave to the educators, but we have to get a handle on our healthcare. It is starting to eat up the vast majority of our budget. We will be talking about that in the next few weeks prior to our next budget hearing and come up with some reasonable numbers, and hopefully we can certainly turn in a balanced budget and the pain will not be as severe as we hope.

Mayor Pro Tem Barton stated that he had been pushing for the last four or five years to try and get the ratios better, to no avail. He stated that he had wanted to do it in steps so that it would not be quite the hit for the employees. We are still being mindful on any kind of changes that we do on those things. So, we are trying to be fair to the employees, but also, mainly fair to the taxpayers.

Councilman Hammond stated that we talk about the 40 communities 20 miles around us; three communities, they're bigger, but Rome, Dalton, and Cartersville are all three at 25/75 on the family plan, which is pretty comparable to what we see in industry and education. That's a pretty big move, so I am fairly certain we won't be able to make that big of a move, but we need to start moving toward that direction. I think the average of those three is about 18 to 20 % on employee coverage, and we are at eight. So, again, some movement will be made as we sharpen pencils and look at it we'll try to be as fair to everybody as we possibly can and make it work for everybody.

Mayor Pro Tem Barton stated that hopefully, we won't have to get in to the other cuts that were suggested like cutting overtime and not having the festival, nor the other organizations we have helped as well so they won't have their cuts, hopefully.

Mayor Palmer stated that he believes they are all concerned about insurance and the price of insurance and the way it continues to go up. When it first came out this year the first proposal was at 26%. With various changes we were able to lower that to 10% and there was some additional changes, as Paul had mentioned, and it went to 7.25%. Mayor Palmer stated he believed there were several things for Council members to consider when looking at these things. When we talk about insurance plans, the plans vary. We don't know what the structures are in Rome, Dalton, or Cartersville that were mentioned. When you take those and review them, Cartersville has a \$1500 deductible; I believe ours

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is \$2500. Rome's plan is self-funded, and in that plan they also provide what I call a Minute Clinic where you can see the doctor. They also have an opportunity for drug purchases. When we look at these in any community, too, we don't know what their formularies are for drugs. A lot of those are very restrictive, so it's kind of hard to compare where we are with where somebody else is. Also, when we look at Rome, Dalton, and Cartersville I think we also need to look a block and a half down from City Hall at the County. The County is at 7% employee and 7% family coverage. I think that needs to be considered as well, and it hasn't been mentioned, but I think another consideration when it comes to looking at this is employee wages. Mr. Peterson put out a report about two weeks on employee wages by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and it looked at populations between 10,000 and 20,000 and we fall basically right in the middle of that. In our employee wages we are well under that average in comparison. I guess what I would like to see is, if we are going to look at what Cartersville, Dalton, and Rome pay on health insurance I think it would also be good to get a comparison of where they are salary wise compared to where we are salary wise, because I think that too should be considered when you are looking at increasing employee contributions.

Councilman Hammond stated that Mayor Palmer was absolutely right, that the City went with a card a couple of years ago to offer an incentive on the deductible. The City paid a large percentage of the deductible so that the employee didn't have to. We do have wage adjustments that we have been making over the last few years for the City of Calhoun and there is still room to move. But, of the 266 employees we have in the City of Calhoun our payroll is \$13,906.23; that's \$48,900 a year average salary. That's not every employee, that's average salary. You have to know what the numbers are; you have to do the math. I wish there was a magic bullet to fix everything; there isn't. We have less revenue than in the past by design; we increased the Freeport from 20% to 80% so that industries would either stay here in Gordon County or locate here in Gordon County. Whitfield, Bartow, and Floyd counties are at 100% Freeport. When we made that move it gave the industries that were already here an incentive that they would stay and keep jobs here. It's a balancing act and you do the very best you can. This group of five has a diverse way of looking at things; we don't all look at it the same, which means we should be looking at it broader by having difference of opinion on the table, openly talking and discussing and then we should be able to come to a pretty reasonable solution that meets as many of the needs as we possibly can.

Mayor Pro Tem Barton stated that we are currently considering a 2% increase for employees but we could go to a 3% raise but we may be able to go to a 3% increase to help compensate for the cost to bring the salaries more in line with other communities, but they will be paying a higher percentage of the insurance ratio. Everyone has worked hard to get this budget in line.

- Mayor Palmer stated that when you are looking at employees with the City and you are looking at single coverage going from \$50 to \$116 and family coverage going from \$211 to \$418 I believe you really need to look at where you are, and look at where you are from a salary standpoint as well. I know that if all of you looked at those numbers almost every position out of the 65 or 70 positions on

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that report, almost every one of those was down. Some of them were down considerably, several, several thousand dollars. So, I just point that out for your consideration moving forward.

- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments. There were none.
- Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing. The second public hearing will be held on June 12th and we invite everyone to come back.

8. **Old Business:**

None

9. **New Business:**

A. **Annexation Request – Patricia and Moises Lopez**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of R-1 for .69 acres at a location of 224 Shadowood Drive, SE, by Patricia and Moises Lopez. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2017. The Public Hearing will be on June 12, 2017.

B. **Annexation Request – Hunter Knight**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request of R-2 for 1.341 acres at a location of Harmony Drive, parcel number 056A-206, 0.419 acres; parcel number 056A-207, 0.445 acres; and parcel 056A-208, 0.477 acres, by Hunter Knight. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2017. The Public Hearing will be on June 12, 2017.

C. **Zoning Request – Hand Up Housing**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a zoning request of PRD for 8 acres at a location of parcel #CG46-106B, Salem Road, by Hand Up Housing of Gordon County. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2017. The Public Hearing will be on June 12, 2017.

D. **Variance Request – Hand Up Housing**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a variance request of 500 square feet, to reduce the required minimum square footage from 800 square feet to 300 square feet, at a location of parcel #CG46-106B, Salem Road, to allow for affordable housing, by Hand Up Housing of Gordon County. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2017. The Public hearing will be on June 12, 2017.

E. **2017 City of Calhoun Zoning Map – First Reading**

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of the updated 2017 City of Calhoun Zoning Map. First eligible date for a public hearing is May 22nd to allow for proper zoning procedure and advertising.

Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the public hearing for the 2017 City of Calhoun Zoning Map for May 22, 2017. Mayor Pro Tem Barton gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

Streamed Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2suQMjix8>

F. Calhoun Utility Rate Resolution – First Reading

Mayor Palmer gave the first reading for amendments to the Calhoun Utility Rate Resolution. Changes include a 14% rate increase for outside the city water and sewer rates, a 5% wholesale accounts increase, and includes that all water meters are subject to the appropriate monthly minimum charge. Assistant City Administrator Worley stated that the proposed rate schedule had been discussed at the first meeting in April and has now been developed and amended accordingly. The 14% rate increase for county residents will result in a \$2.18 increase to the average monthly bill, while keeping the City of Calhoun in the bottom 30% of low cost providers in north Georgia. These funds would be designated for projects in the County. He also recommended a second reading at the May 22nd meeting of the City Council prior to implementation of the proposed rate increase on June 1st.

10. Other Written Items Not on the Agenda:

None

11. Work Reports:

Eddie Peterson, City Administrator

12. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed:

City Attorney Govignon stated there was no need to move to executive session.

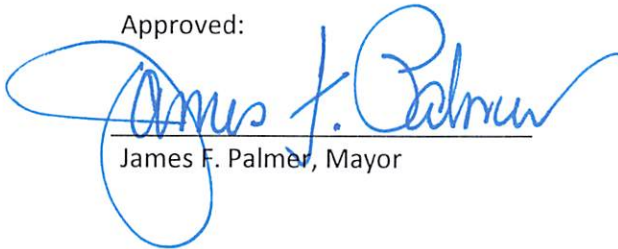
13. Motion to return to General Session:

12. Motion to Report Executive Session, if appropriate

13. Motion to adjourn:

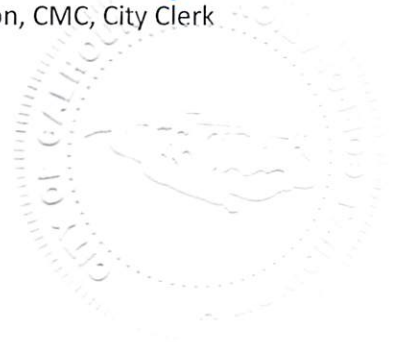
Mayor Pro Tem Barton made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second, with all voting aye. Motion approved.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, CMC, City Clerk



**PROPOSED BUDGET
CALHOUN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018**

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS
ESTIMATED REVENUES			
Local Taxes	\$12,517,331	\$0	\$0
Interest	\$3,000	\$0	\$0
Nurse Funds - Gordon County Comm	\$34,125	\$0	\$0
State Sources	\$19,582,423	\$830,507	\$0
Federal Sources	\$0	\$2,683,780	\$0
Other Local Revenues	\$189,000	\$3,041,976	\$600,000
Transfers In	\$0	\$141,714	\$0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$32,325,879	\$6,697,977	\$600,000
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES			
Instruction	\$21,715,018	\$1,359,292	\$0
Pupil Support Services	\$1,363,465	\$939,929	\$0
Improvement of Instruction	\$1,735,335	\$91,172	\$0
Educational Media Services	\$393,966	\$50,000	\$0
General Administration	\$485,230	\$17,433	\$0
School Administration	\$1,988,839	\$54,018	\$0
Business Office	\$517,855	\$0	\$0
Maintenance & Operations	\$2,990,508	\$8,000	\$0
Student Transportation	\$948,634	\$50,933	\$0
Central Support Services	\$182,478	\$0	\$0
Other Support Services	\$24,951	\$13,985	\$0
School Nutrition Services	\$0	\$2,622,503	\$0
School Activity Accounts	\$0	\$99,825	\$0
Community Education Services	\$0	\$771,162	\$0
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
Other Outlays/Operating Transfers	\$92,262	\$425,652	\$0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	\$32,438,541	\$6,503,904	\$600,000

The City Council will meet and consider for adoption on June 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in The Depot. The Board of Education (BOE) will meet and consider for adoption on June 19, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at the Central Office located at 380 Barrett Road.

**CALHOUN CITY SCHOOLS
COMPARISON OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

	FY17 GENERAL FUND	FY18 GENERAL FUND	Difference
ESTIMATED REVENUES			
Local Taxes	\$11,861,063	\$12,517,331	\$656,268
Interest	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$500
Nurse Funds - Gordon County Comm	\$34,125	\$34,125	\$0
State Sources	\$18,792,910	\$19,582,423	\$789,513
Federal Sources	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Local Revenues	<u>\$190,000</u>	<u>\$189,000</u>	<u>(\$1,000)</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$30,880,598	\$32,325,879	\$1,445,281
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES			
Instruction	\$20,749,405	\$21,715,018	\$965,613
Pupil Support Services	\$1,263,908	\$1,363,465	\$99,557
Improvement of Instruction	\$1,683,580	\$1,735,335	\$51,755
Educational Media Services	\$360,176	\$393,966	\$33,790
General Administration	\$462,696	\$485,230	\$22,534
School Administration	\$1,697,607	\$1,988,839	\$291,232
Business Office	\$520,067	\$517,855	(\$2,212)
Maintenance & Operations	\$2,991,135	\$2,990,508	(\$627)
Student Transportation	\$989,630	\$948,634	(\$40,996)
Central Support Services	\$81,351	\$182,478	\$101,127
Other Support Services	\$69,007	\$24,951	(\$44,056)
School Nutrition Services	\$25,339	\$0	(\$25,339)
Community Education Services	\$331	\$0	(\$331)
Other Outlays/Operating Transfers	<u>\$408,223</u>	<u>\$92,262</u>	<u>(\$315,961)</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	\$31,302,455	\$32,438,541	\$1,136,086