



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 13, 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; Ken Caron, Calhoun Police; Christy Nicholson, Calhoun Police

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**
Welcome
Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
Invocation
Mayor Palmer 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 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**
Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of March 23, 2026. Councilmember Potts gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer read a Proclamation Observing Telecommunicator's Week. The City Council of the City of Calhoun and Board of Commissioners of Gordon County hereby proclaim the week of April 12-18, 2026 as "National Telecommunicator's Week" and urge all citizens to join in honoring the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

6. **Council Comments**

- A. Councilmember Palazzolo submitted March reports as follows:

1) **Police Department**

- Made 216 cases with 8 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$37,483.73
- Issued 566 warnings
- Investigated 97 highway accidents, 34 private property accidents
- Obstruction - 11
- Lethal Weapon Encounter - 2
- Alarm responses - 119
- Miles patrolled: 53,995

2) **Municipal Court**

- Citations from Police Department-210
- Court cases docketed - 218
- Probation cases assigned - 21
- Probation revocations - 1
- Bench warrants - 5
- Failure to appear - 12

3) **Fire Department**

Suppression Division

- 197 – Total Calls for Service to Include:
 - 11 – Fire Calls
 - 141 – Rescue and EMS Response
 - 45 – Service Calls
- 3.14% increase in call volume from January

Department Response Times

- Turnout Time – 1 minute 45 seconds
- Travel Time – 4 minutes 01 seconds
- Total Response Time – 5 minutes and 46 seconds
- 25% increase in response times from January

Inspections Division

- 0 – Annual Inspections
- 3 – Plan Reviews

- 0 – Zoning and Annexation Meetings
- 30% decrease in inspections from January

Training Division

- 1074 Hours – Total Department Monthly Training Hours
- 20.4% decrease in training hours from January

Public Relations

- 7 – Public Relations Events
- 61 – Adults that received Fire and Life Safety Education
- 3 – Children that received Fire and Life Safety Education
- 25% decrease in individuals reached from January

Department Monthly Events

- March 2026 – Firefighter Andrew Thayer, Firefighter Hunter White, Firefighter Chris Williams, and Firefighter Brian Holcomb obtained their NREMT and Georgia Advanced EMT certification and license.
- March 2nd, 2026 – Completed annual Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training audit
- March 5th, 2026 – Completed community CPR education event for the public
- March 6th, 2026 – Completed Community Emergency Response Training event for the public
- March 13th, 2026 – Lieutenant Cody Benton completed Fire Instructor I certification at GPSTC
- March 14th, 2026 – Lieutenant Dustin Hall and Firefighter Tyler Richardson completed a Heavy Vehicle Extrication Certification Course
- March 18th, 2026 – Department members participated in Georgia Search and Rescue Rope Training.
- March 19th, 2026 – Lieutenant Cody Benton completed Fire Origin and Cause Determination for Company Officer Certification at GPSTC
- March 19th, 2026 – Division Chief Saylor attended the IAAI Spring Fire Investigation Conference
- March 26th, 2026 – Completed community Fire Extinguisher event for the public

March Upcoming Events

- April 1st, 2026 – Emergency Management Summit
- April 2nd, 2026 – Annual Egg Drop Event at Calhoun Early Learning Academy
- April 2nd, 2026 – Calhoun City Schools 3rd Grade Walking Tour
- April 9th, 2026 – Community CPR Event
- April 11th, 2026 – Touch A Truck Community Event
- April 13th, 2026 – Life Skills Fire Safety Event

- April 14th, 2026 – Calhoun High School Fire Extinguisher Training
- April 15th, 2026 – Calhoun High School Fire Extinguisher Training
- April 18th, 2026 – Fire Safety Community Event at Life Style Wellness
- April 21st, 2026 – GPSTC Incident Safety Officer Course
- April 23rd, 2026 – GPSTC Health and Safety Program Manager Course
- April 24th, 2026 – BBQ and Boogie Community Event
- April 29th, 2026 – GPSTC Water Mapping Course

4) **Safety Committee**

The safety topic of discussion this month was Hazardous Waste Awareness. No safety inspections were performed in March.

- Vehicle accidents: 2
- Workers compensation: 2

5) **Library**

- There are 13,040 library card holders, 5,416 library visitors, and 6,770 total circulation.
- There were 242 story time attendance, 401 adult program attendance, 106 new users, 1,600 e-books, 3,055 audio books, 369 computer logins, and 840 Facebook visits.

B. Councilmember Edwards presented March reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

Current Electric Department Engineering and Construction:

The LED Streetlight upgrade continues around the City.

ENGINEERING

Dialysis Center on Curtis Pkwy
Store on Curtis Pkwy
New Recreation Department

CONSTRUCTION

New development on Peters St (102 homes)
New field house and hitting facility at Calhoun High School
Salacoa Subdivision
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
120 Professional Court 6 unit building

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED:

• NEWLY CREATED	72
• CLOSED	69
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• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	25
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	2
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	7
• SECURITY / STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	7
• TEMPORARY POWER HOOK UP	2
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	21
• NEW METER SETS	11
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	69
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	255
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The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for MARCH 2026 is about 28.5 million kilowatt hours (kWh's).

2) Telecommunications

- FCC Form 499-A completed and submitted.
- Meetings with vendor for new City of Calhoun website options.
- Meetings with ATT about a solution for new elevator phone at Calhoun High School's new field house and the field press box.
- Upgraded file server storage another 2TB.
- Worked with company on setting up auto updates for the Tax Server.
- Worked with Northstar Billing System on updating software to newer version.
- Completed Firewall firmware updates at Police Department and Central Office..
- Software updates on Email server.
- Setup and installed 5 new laptop/desktop computers.
- Troubleshooted a number of customer's internet connections.
- Submitted 2 quotes for new internet customers.
- Setup 1 new internet customer.
- Upgraded Internet speed at 1 customer site.
- Completed a number of 811 fiber locates.
- Opened 19 work orders and closed 16 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Web Server Protection for GIS website installed on firewall.
- Water meter and water system updates.
- 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 147 permits for an estimated cost of \$7,122,303, collected \$55,493 in permit fees. This included 28 new residential, 7 residential remodel, 0 new commercial, 1 commercial remodel, 0 new industrial, 0 industrial remodel, 21 residential plumbing, 24 residential electrical, 21 residential HVAC, 2 commercial plumbing, 3 commercial electrical, 2 commercial HVAC, 0 industrial plumbing, and 0 industrial electrical. 311 total inspections.

4) **Zoning Advisory Board**

C. Councilmember Potts submitted March reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 0
- Daily average: 0
- Wells: 0
- Big Springs: 0
- % produced by Brittany Drive: %
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 0%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 0%
 - Rainfall for April –0"

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 6.532 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 5, average suspended effluent of 11, and an average COD of 86.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 230 work orders completed, 57 new water connections, 17 water service leaks repaired, 15 water main leaks repaired, 46 meter changes, 42 utility locates called in for work orders, 830 utility locates responses.
- 1,600 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected and cleaned, 632 utility locates completed, 5,800 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 1 new sewer connection installed, 22 sanitary sewer connections installed by contractors, 11 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) **Water and Sewer Construction**

Projects Under Construction

- Brittany Dr & Water Booster Stations Standby Generator Project – This project is approximately 97% completed. The generator controls have been integrated into our plant SCADA system. Final operational testing is scheduled for April 15th.
- Spring Valley Sewer Rehabilitation Project –This project consists of improving an older segment of our sewer system to reduce I&I and free up additional capacity of this sub-basin. The scope includes upgrading approx. 6,000' of sewer main from a 12 inch to 15 inches. This project is approximately 85% completed. The last remaining 800' segment along Stewart Dr was completed last month. Crews are now addressing the final remaining punch-list items that consist of dress-up, testing, coating a few outstanding manholes, etc..
- GDOT SR 53 & Brown Lee Mtn. Water Relocation Project – This project is under construction and consists of consolidating, relocating, and upsizing two different water lines to accommodate highway improvements near the intersection. This project is approximately 90% completed.
- Water Distribution installed approximately 3,000' of 8" ductile iron pipe along Mauldin Rd in Fairmount, GA. This extension provides additional availability for county residents, while adding redundancy and improved service delivery for this area.

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. Final adjustments are being revised, and construction is expected to start within the next few months.
- 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. Permitting for this project is now underway.
- Boone Ford @ Lovers Lane Water Relocation Project – This project consists of relocating approximately 500' of varying-sized lines to accommodate a Gordon County intersection improvement 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 (70% 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.

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

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

- Completed 22 shop and 25 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 10 new street signs.
- Repaired utility cuts and pot holes around town using 15 tons of asphalt.
- Repaired sidewalk in front of the tax commissioner's office.

Cemetery

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemeteries.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 16 grave sites including 2 inurnments in the columbarium.
- Sold 15 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.
- Repaired a broken metal handy-cap ramp down town.

Animal Control

- Housed 14 dogs and 9 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 4
- Number of cats adopted: 4
- Number of dogs rescued: 1
- Number of cats rescued: 4
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of dogs euthanized: 1
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 0
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issued: 0

2) **Recreation Department**

Baseball and Softball – The 2026 baseball and softball season has started. Practices began March 2. We have 23 baseball teams and 9 softball teams. The scheduled games started Thursday, March 26.

Youth Soccer – The 2026 spring soccer season started March 9. There are 39 teams participating. Eighty-four games were played March 9-March 31.

Youth Volleyball – The 2026 Spring volleyball season started March 9 with practices. There are 14 teams participating this spring. Matches started Monday March 30.

Youth Track and Field - There are 68 boys and girls participating in the inaugural season of track and field. Practices began March 7 and the first meet was held March 28.

Spring Sports Opening Day – The Spring Sports Opening Day was held Friday, March 20 with all teams participating in spring sports being recognized. Food Trucks, Music, vendors and games for everyone were offered during this fun filled night.

Tennis – CMS and CHS tennis matches were played throughout the month
Combo 18 and over and +40 league had 75 participants
Drills/Daily Instruction – 40 participants

Senior Events – March 12 – Bingo Coffee and Donuts was held with 16 seniors participating. March 26-8 seniors participated in the trip to Gibbs Gardens.

Parks/Facilities –

Check and repair fences
Pressure washed softball building
Set-up Bernstein Park for Calhoun Community Education T-ball
Field Maintenance prep for baseball/softball season
Prep fields for middle school baseball games
Prep fields for middle and high school soccer
Prep field for Rec soccer games
Mow all parks grounds
Weed eat all parks grounds
Pool maintenance

Website Usage-

CalhounRec.com	Facebook
Page Views – 4,350	Post Engagements – 7,187
New Users – 1,330	Page Views – 12,958
Post – 4	Post – 42

Community and Professional Involvement

GRPA Maintenance Management I Workshop – March 9-12 – 2 staff members

Keep Calhoun Gordon Beautiful – Tree Health Training – March 12 – 3 staff members

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 11 –Touch of Calhoun – 110 Recreation Drive

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

Downtown Businesses

Fairytale Sweets, a gourmet dessert shop, opened its doors in March at 209 Wall Street, inside the Owen Security Building. We are excited to welcome another specialty food business to the downtown mix, further enhancing the variety of offerings available to residents and visitors.

A second business, Pulse Pilates Studio, has applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage and is anticipated to open in May at 206 S. Wall Street. The owner shared that they had considered opening a studio in Dalton but ultimately chose downtown Calhoun due to its walkability, character, and positive energy, expressing a strong desire to be part of the downtown community.

Downtown Beautification

The first two planters associated with our downtown beautification initiative are underway. In partnership with Keep Calhoun-Gordon Beautiful (KCGB), the planters are expected to be installed in advance of BBQ & Boogie. These initial planters will be placed at the corners of Court Street and Wall Street. We have selected commercial-grade self-watering planters that come highly recommended by other downtown programs. KCGB is generously providing the soil and plant materials. Installation and planting are tentatively scheduled for April 22.

Additionally, 3 Alarm Pressure Washing will soon be cleaning sidewalks throughout the Historic District, enhancing curb appeal as we move into the spring season. The last district-wide sidewalk cleaning took place in 2018, and this effort will help refresh the appearance of our downtown environment.

Downtown Events

March's Hop & Shop event was a strong success. Through the Passport promotion, more than 200 completed passports were submitted for entry into drawings for three spring prize baskets. Participating merchants reported both strong foot traffic and increased sales, demonstrating the effectiveness of connecting micro-events directly to economic activity. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for the event, and feedback from businesses has been very positive. Notably, one downtown retailer reported over \$6,000 in sales on the day of the event alone, illustrating the tangible impact of these smaller-scale, community-focused initiatives.

Special Event Application – Heavale Brewing Co.

Bobby and Emily Cheek of Heavale Brewing Co. have submitted a Special

Event application requesting permission to host a food truck outside of their business on select Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in conjunction with events held inside the brewery. These events include a rapidly growing and well-attended Thursday Trivia Night, Friday Music Bingo, and select Saturday sports watch events.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) supports this application as it provides an opportunity to formalize and structure these activities in a way that benefits both the business and the surrounding downtown district. Approval would allow for the temporary closure of a single parking space to accommodate the food truck and ensures surrounding businesses receive advance notice of the dates so they can plan accordingly.

Encouraging businesses to host events that draw patrons downtown helps increase overall foot traffic, which can positively impact neighboring establishments. Heavale Brewing Co. has also demonstrated a commitment to being a good partner by coordinating with food trucks that do not directly compete with nearby brick-and-mortar restaurants.

Permitting these events provides a framework to ensure proper use of public space, including maintaining access to sidewalks and crosswalks, supporting clear communication with nearby businesses, and promoting a well-organized and vibrant downtown environment.

They have provided dates for all of 2026. We will include half of the dates in this application and reapply for the remaining dates in a couple of months. Please find their application attached.

Application Details:

- No road closures requested. Requesting use of a parallel parking space on Oothcalooga Street located directly outside Heavale Brewing Co.'s entrance.
- April, May, June July, & August
- Thursdays: 3- 9 PM
- Fridays: 3-10 PM
- Saturdays: 1-10 PM

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 a zoning change request from R-2 to C-2 for 1.07 acres, at a location of 0 Harmony Church Road/Red Bud Road, being parcel C55B-067B, by Pragat Krupa, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held April 9th.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Councilmember Edwards gave the report on Zoning Advisory Board stating that the board recommended approval of the zoning change request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning change request.
- Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the zoning change request. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request from county A-1 to C-2 for a combined acreage of 4.04 acres, at a location of 317 and 329 Richardson Road, being parcels 058-036 and 058-037, by Puma Purushottam, LLC and Shree Mehant, LLC/Terry Patel. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held April 9th.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Councilmember Edwards gave the report on Zoning Advisory Board stating that the board recommended approval of the annexation and zoning request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for comments.
- Tyler Krauss, of Brumlow, Corwin & Delashmit, P.C., located at 1287 Curtis Parkway, SE, and representing the applicant, stated that the applicant is aware that water and sewer capacity depends on the use for the building and is prepared to complete any necessary upgrades to the sewer infrastructure to support the project.
- There were no other comments and Mayor Palmer 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 C-2.
- Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the request with the condition that all requirements of the Zoning Advisory Board meeting of April 9th be met. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. **Other Hearings and Comments**

A. Public Hearing of a beer and wine pouring request, at a location of 123 Columbus Circle, NE, by Melissa Bushong D/B/A Jacket Snack Shack.

- 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. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

9. **Old Business**

10. **New Business**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a sign variance request of 196.82 square feet, to vary from the required 180 square feet to 376.62 square feet, for 9.00 acres located at 175 North Industrial Boulevard, being parcel C42A-071, by FieldTurf. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 7 and the public hearing on May 11.
- B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a front setback variance request of 15 feet on Fain Street and 20 feet on Pitts Street for a building addition; and, 12 feet on Pitts Street for golf cart storage, to vary from the required 30 foot front setback on both streets, for 4.29 acres located at 411 College Street, being parcel C24-078, First Baptist Church of Calhoun, GA. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 7 and the public hearing on May 11.
- C. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a 20 foot landscaping buffer variance adjacent to 206 Line Street to vary from the required 30 foot buffer, and a four foot border landscaping buffer for a parking border landscaping adjacent to Pitts Street, to vary from the required 10 foot buffer, for 4.29 acres located at 411 College Street, being parcel C24-078, by First Baptist Church of Calhoun, GA. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 7 and the public hearing on May 11.
- D. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of an annexation and zoning request from County A-1 to R-1 for 2.12 acres, being parcel 050-060, at a location of Jones Road, by J. Bryan Matthews. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 7 and the public hearing on May 11.
- E. Mayor Palmer read a Special Event application by Heavale Brewing Company requesting permission to host a food truck outside of their business on select Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in conjunction with events held inside the brewery. These events include a rapidly growing and well-attended Thursday Trivia Night, Friday Music Bingo, and select Saturday sports watch events beginning in April through April. The food truck will be available on Thursday and Friday from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and Saturday from 1:00 pm to 10:00 pm. This will require the closing of a single parallel parking space on Oothcalooga Street. Councilmember Palazzolo made a motion to approve the request. Mayor Pro Tem Moyer 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 stated that today was Lineman Appreciation Day and he wanted to take the opportunity to thank all utility employees, but particularly linemen, for their hard work and dedication to the City of Calhoun.

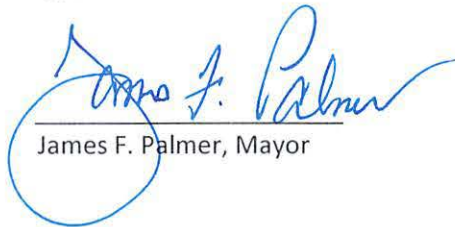
13. Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed

14. Motion to return to General Session

15. Motion to Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Moyer made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk

