



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2020- 7:00 PM
109 SOUTH KING STREET
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James F. Palmer, Mayor
George R. Crowley, Mayor Pro Tem
Ray Mitchell Denmon, Councilman
Al Edwards, Councilman
Jacqueline Palazzolo, Councilwoman

ALSO: Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator; Paul Worley, Assistant City Administrator; Sharon Nelson, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Tony Pyle, Police Chief; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief; Kyle Ellis, Director of Water & Wastewater.

1. **Council Meeting Called to Order**

Welcome

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

Invocation

Mayor Pro Tem Crowley 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**

Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the January 13, 2020 agenda as presented. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

4. **Amendment or Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of December 16, 2019. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

5. **Mayor's Comments**

- A. Mayor Palmer gave the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Palazzolo for City Council Post 1.
- B. Mayor Palmer announced the 2020 appointments of City Council members for reporting purposes for various departments of the City, according to Calhoun Code of Ordinances Section 2-33.
 - Councilwoman Palazzolo - Public Works, Recreation, Library, and Zoning Advisory Board.
 - Councilman Edwards - Electric, Telecommunications, Building Inspections, Schools, and Safety Committee.
 - Councilman Denmon - Water and Sewer Operations, Water and Sewer Construction, DDA, Main Street Program, and Historic Preservation.
 - Councilman Crowley - Police, Municipal Court, Fire, Revolving Loan, and Airport.
- C. Mayor Palmer reminded those present of the upcoming Cities United Summit on January 24-27, 2019 in Atlanta. No work session will be held on Monday, January 27th.

6. **Council Comments**

- A. Councilwoman Palazzolo submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Public Works**

Street Department

- Completed 28 shop and 24 street dept. work orders.
- Installed 2 new street signs.
- Continued the annual leaf cleanup around town.
- Removed a tree from the roadway on Alton Drive.

Cemetery Department

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 9 grave sites.
- Sold 16 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 leak in the roof at the library.

Animal Control

- Housed 8 dogs and 4 cat
- Number of dogs adopted: 1
- Number of cats adopted: 0
- Number of dogs rescued: 4
- Number of cats rescued: 0
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 0
- Number of cats reclaimed by owner: 0

- Number of dogs euthanized: 0
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 20
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issues: 1

2) **Recreation Department**

1. **YOUTH SPORTS:**

Soccer – We hosted the GRPA Class B/C State Soccer tournament December 6 and 7 for the u8, u10 and u12 Coed divisions. There were 18 teams that participated in this 2 day event with an estimated economic impact of \$46,800.

Youth Basketball – Youth Basketball games began December 9. Thirty-nine games were played December 9 – December 19. Our partnership with Calhoun City Schools allows us to be able to use the primary, elementary, and middle school gyms for practices and gyms. All gym space is maxed out for our basketball program.

2. **PROGRAMS:**

STARS – There were five Stars participants for the December Christmas party. Participants made reindeer food, decorated cookies and enjoyed pizza.

ADOPT A SENIOR - A new program was implemented for the holiday season. We partnered with the Gordon County Senior Center and hosted adopt a senior. We received 15 senior citizen names that could be adopted before December 6. Those adopted had submitted a wish list for Christmas. All 15 seniors were adopted and gifts were delivered by December 11. We had a Christmas party for the seniors on December 13. Twelve of the seniors were able to attend. We had lunch and each senior opened their gifts and shared with everyone what they received.

3. **FACILITY USAGE:**

The following facilities were reserved throughout the month of December for Special Events:

Billy Bearden Recreation Center:

Meeting Room –4 events	Community Room –6 events
Gym – 1 event	Open Gym – 178 participants

4. **WEBSITE USAGE:**

CalhounRec.com	Facebook Page
Sessions – 1,025	Reached – 2,467
Users – 623	Engagements - 630
Page Views – 1,688	Posts - 4

5. PARKS MAINTENANCE:

- 1- Prepped soccer fields for State Soccer Tournament
- 2- Stripped, waxed and painted floors of bathrooms and concession at Soccer Complex
- 3- Delivered and picked up bleachers borrowed by County Extension office.
- 4- Touch up paint in Recreation Center, softball complex and Tennis Center
- 5- Repaired bathroom at new complex due to vandalism
- 6- Mulched leaves throughout park
- 7- Removed leaves from walking trails
- 8- Winterized softball complex and Ratner pavilion
- 9- Winterized soccer complex
- 10- Stored all trash cans from around park flooding areas

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Calhoun – Gordon County United Way – Warm-up All-star Basketball Tournament – Feb. 6-8, 2020
- Miracle Run – benefiting United Way Agencies Winners Club and Camp New Adventure United Way – February 29
- 4th Annual Calhoun Recreation Youth Classic Tournament – March 22- 29, 2019

3) **Library**

- There are 12,000 library card holders, 3,319 library visitors, and 2,575 total circulation.
- There were 0 story time attendance, 0 adult program attendance, 31 new users, 555 e-books, 824 audio books, 314 computer logins, and 15,449 Facebook visits.

B. Councilman Edwards submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- Construction continues on the upgrades in the Echota Mill Village with renovations to 20 homes, the new Zaxby's at 645 Hwy 53 East, two new Industrial buildings at the corner of Richardson Road and Old Bellwood Road, Willow Brook phase 2, which will be approximately 40 new homes, the new Gordon County Health Department at 310 North River Street plus the overhead powerline relocation for the Wal-Mart expansion.
- Electrical Engineering continues on pole replacement on South Wall Street from Hicks Street to South Piedmont Street.

WORK ORDERS IN PROCESS OR COMPLETED FOR DECEMBER:

• NEWLY CREATED	59
• COMPLETED AND CLOSED	47
• CONSISTING OF:	
• CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	18
• STREET AND SECURITY LIGHTING-	14
• DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE	8
• OUTAGES / TROUBLE CALLS	7
• WORK FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS	12
• NEW METER SETS	3
• METER MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT	9
• ELECTRIC LOCATE TICKETS PROCESSED-	277
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The City of Calhoun’s Electrical load for December 2019 is estimated to be about 25 million kilowatt hours (kWh). This is about the same as December of 2018.

2) Telecommunications

Telecommunications

- Installed fiber for one new internet connection.
- Setup five new internet services on existing customer sites.
- Disconnected one point-to-point service.
- Installed two new firewalls to support high availability for City internet
- Installed new firewall for Police Department internet.
- Moved fiber connection for Water and Sewer Maintenance.
- Completed Cyber Security Survey for the Police Department.
- Ordered and received new network switches. Working on implementation plan.
- Opened 13 and closed 16 work orders.

Geographic Information Systems

- Participated with Engineering Department in water modeling work sessions.
- Updated the following GIS layers
 - Water system
 - Fire pre-plans for industrial and commercial buildings
 - Physical addressing for building and billing information
 - Changes to fiber network
 - Fiber network
 - Zoning
- Updated City and GIS web sites
- City employee GIS login statistics

- Total logins – 1302
- Top three layers accessed
 - Water – 564
 - Metering – 260

Electric – 158

3) **Building Inspections**

- Issued 80 permits for an estimated cost of \$10,382,372, collected \$50,362 in permit fees. This included 20 new residential, 2 residential remodel, 1 new commercial, 1 commercial remodel, 10 residential plumbing, 10 residential electrical, 3 commercial plumbing, 13 residential HVAC, and 1 commercial electrical. 240 total inspections.

4) **Safety Committee**

- The safety committee met on December 3rd and the topic of discussion was a yearend review.
- A safety inspection was completed on December 10th at the Police Department.
 - Vehicle accidents: 1
 - Workers compensation: 1

C. Councilman Denmon submitted December reports as follows:

1) **Water and Sewer Operations**

Water Treatment Plant

- Total gallons withdrawn: 317,110,000
- Daily average: 10,723,090
- Wells: 0
- Big Springs: 121,980,000
- % produced by Brittany Drive: 38.5%
 - Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 33.34%
 - Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 39.34%
 - Rainfall for November – 7.37"

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Treated a daily average of 6.933 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 3, average suspended effluent of 11, and an average COD of 49.

Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

- 272 work orders completed, 15 new water connections, 17 water service leaks repaired, 17 water main leaks repaired, 25 new meters and MXU's installed for new connections, 133 meter changes, 32 utility locates called in for work orders, 502 utility locates responses.
- 2,350 feet of Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 413 utility locates completed, 3,900 feet sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 23 new sewer connections installed, 4 sanitary sewer services repaired.

2) Water and Sewer Construction

- As part of the new NPDES requirements, steps are underway to meet the storm water segment of the Watershed Protection Plan. EPD notified us on April 17th that our Section 319 Grant for Lynn Creek has been awarded. All contracts have been executed and returned signed. Project Kickoff meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020.
- The two inch galvanized line replacement continues utilizing city forces.
- S.R. 156 Water Main Relocation (GDOT/ RR Bridge Replacement @ Ranger) – We have coordinated with the bridge contractor to install the new main on the new bridge. Materials are on site ready for bridge contractor to install.
- Ranger 12" Water Transmission Main – Materials are on site and permits have been acquired. This project is under construction.
- New 2.0 Million Gallon Tank on Pittman Road – The Project was awarded to PRECON TANKS. The structural walls are complete. Contractor finishing tank construction and removing equipment off site so that the fencing and driveway can be completed.
- Peters Street Phase II Water and Sewer Relocations – Construction is underway on the water relocation. Contractor making service line connections.
- Hwy 41 South Sewer Extension – The Project was awarded to Gordy Construction. 24" segment of the project is complete. Contractor working on 12" segments on East side of Hwy 41.

Water & Sewer Projects in Development

- North Wall Street and Redbud Road Intersection improvements- GDOT asked for, and were given an estimate to relocate any utilities in conflict with the proposed project.
- S.R. 136 Water Main Relocation for new Bridges at the Coosawattee River.
- Design documents are being prepared for a sewer lift station that will serve the Georgia Cumberland Academy off of Reeves Station Road.
- Developer has purchased easement to extend a sewer line from the Hwy 41 South Sewer Extension to serve additional properties on the east side of Hwy 41 near Hensley Road. Engineering is in progress.
- GDOT permits obtained to replace 4" cast iron water main along Wall Street near Hicks St.

Projects in Engineering Conceptual Design

Sewer

- Blackwood Creek Trunk Sewer Replacement
- Yarborough Street Replacement Sewer
- Louise Ave., Cherry St., and Florence Ave. Sewer Replacement
- Sewer Main relocation for the airport project.
- Old Fairmount Hwy Sewer Extension
- Future extensions of the current Hwy 41 South Sewer Project

Water

- Bellwood Road Water Transmission Main
- Reeves Station Water Main (replacing existing 6" C. I. with an 8")
- Second Interconnect with Pickens County
- GDOT SR 156/Salacoa Creek Bridges. Scheduled for 2020
- SR 225 8" water main river crossing

3) **Downtown Development Authority**

The HPC & DDA held their regularly scheduled meetings. The HPC will finish the instillation of the historic signs this month. The DDA's next scheduled event will be the BBQ, Boogie & Blues on April 24th and 25th. We hope to see everyone downtown at these annual events and encourage everyone to shop local.

D. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley submitted December reports as follows:

➤ **Police Department**

- Made 274 cases with 6 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$27,567
- Issued 537 warnings
- Investigated 54 highway accidents, 52 private property accidents
- Escorts - 24
- Incident reports -1,189
- Alarm responses - 257
- Miles patrolled: 46,008

➤ **Municipal Court**

- Total Court cases- 274
- Court cases dropped- 56
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 161
- Number of Probation cases- 13
- Failure to appear- 43
- Subpoenas served- 10

➤ **Fire Department**

Fire Suppression Division

147 Total reported calls for service for the Suppression Division

Dispatched Calls

- 3 Fire Incidents (\$1,500.00 in **Estimated** Fire damage)
- 0 Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (**NO FIRE**)
- 98 Emergency Medical Services / Rescue (Injuries, Medical, or Fatality)
- 5 Hazardous Conditions Incidents (**NO FIRE**; Leaks, Spills, Electrical Hazards; All Other Hazardous Conditions without injuries)
- 4 Service Calls (Water Leak; Assist Other Agencies with Non-Emergency Calls)

- 25 Good Intent Calls (Smoke / Odor check; Investigation of Unknown Problem)
- 12 False Alarms or False Calls
- 0 Severe Weather & Natural Disaster
- 0 Special Incident Type (Citizen Complaint; Other)

Additional Fire Department Activities

- 3 new Firefighters graduated recruit classes and came on shift as State Certified Firefighter 1.
- Participated in the Hospital Drill for active shooters.
- Participated in the annual Santa in Uniform event for over 70 children.
- Completed routine Dept. maintenance and duties.

Training Division

CFD completed 337 Total Man Hours of training during the month. Training consisted of: Strategic and tactical operations, ladders, firefighter survival, and incident reporting. Completed the testing for State Firefighter certification for the 3 new recruits.

Fire Inspections - Public Safety Education Code Enforcement Division

51 Total Reported Activities / Inspections completed during the month.

Inspections / Enforcement

- 11 Annual Inspection
 - 0 New Business Inspections
 - 5 Requested Inspections
 - 7 Follow Up, Re-Inspections
 - 0 Burn Site Inspections
 - 2 Plan Reviews
 - 1 Pre-Construction Meetings
- 12 Sprinkler Permits Issued
 - 0 Fuel Tank Permit (Install, Removal or Service)
- 13 Consultations
 - 0 Illegal Burning Citations

Additional Inspection - Public Safety & Codes Division Activities

- Inspections attended the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meeting for industry.
- Duvall attended the City Safety meeting and site inspection.
- Lt. Fox installed or checked 11 car seats for children during the month. (Some of the seats are provided by a local organization).

7. Public Hearing 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 speaking having filed a financial disclosure statement five days prior to the hearing if required, with each person giving their name and address. An

inquiry should be made to determine if any elected official has filed a disclosure statement regarding ownership or special interest in any of the agenda items. Zoning Land Use Maps on display in Council Chambers for Zoning Advisory Board and Council hearings.

A. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request of R1-B for 1.40 acres, at a location of Cherry Hill Drive and Peters Street (parcels GC27-010 and GC27-011), by Eric Worley. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 9th.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- Assistant City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the Board was in favor of the annexation and zoning request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the annexation request.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the Annexation Request of 1.40 acres. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the zoning request of R1-B. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

B. Public hearing of a rear setback variance request of 10 feet, varying from 20 feet to 10 feet, at a location of 116 McConnell Road (parcel C11-040) to construct a 1,150 square foot home, by the Housing Authority of the City of Calhoun. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 9th.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- Assistant City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the Board was in favor of the variance request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the variance request.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the variance request. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

C. Public hearing of a 50 foot setback variance request from the required 100 feet from the front right-of-way, a 420 foot variance request from the required 500 feet from R-2 zoning, and a 15 foot height variance request from the required 25 feet height limit for an electronic billboard sign at a location of 1060 Red Bud Road, by Bruce Stock and Mitch Frix. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 9th.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- Assistant City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.

- Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that no motions were made pertaining to the requested variances.
 - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments.
 - Mitch Frix of 113 Vogel Street, one of the applicants, stated that the variances requested were for an electronic billboard. He stated that he felt this would be good for their business as well as the community. He also stated that 12.5% of the signage would be designated to the City of Calhoun for advertising.
 - Bruce Stocks of 640 Newtown Road, the other applicant, stated that he felt the 12.5% of the signage on the face of each side would help direct traffic to downtown Calhoun. He noted that the variances requested had been done with the adjoining neighbors in mind: The 15 foot height to raise the sign over the tallest part of Carriage Apartments; the tree buffer would remain in place; and the 50 foot right-of-way variance. He stated that the 50 foot variance was requested because the 100 foot variance causes a sight issue and he felt it was unsafe. He noted that even at 50 feet the sign would still be behind all of the others on Redbud Road. He also stated that without the 420 foot variance from the required 500 foot from R-2 zoning the property would be unusable.
 - Debra Walker, Regional Vice President of PK Management, 25 Woods Lake Road, Suite 714, Greenville, SC, 29607, spoke on behalf of Carriage Apartments in opposition of the request. She stated that residents of the apartment complex were concerned with the glare that could be caused by the billboard.
 - There being no other comments, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the variance request for the 50 foot setback. Request died for lack of a motion.
 - Mayor Palmer then called for a motion concerning 420 foot variance request. Request died for lack of a motion.
 - Mayor Palmer then called for a motion concerning the 15 foot height variance request. Request died for lack of a motion.
- D. Public hearing of an annexation and zoning request of C-2 for 0.746 acres, at a location of GC36-120A (N. Wall Street), by Fernandez Investments, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting was held January 9th.
- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
 - Assistant City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
 - Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the Board was in favor of the annexation and zoning request.
 - Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments.
 - Terry Brumlow, 1287 Curtis Parkway, Calhoun, attorney for the applicant stated that the applicant owns the old Lovingood Processing Plant and is in need of more space. They are planning to expand the current business and add some retail space at a later date.
 - Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the annexation request.
 - Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the annexation request of C-2 for the 1.698 acres. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the zoning request.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the zoning request of C-2. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

E. Public hearing of a zoning change request of R-2 to C-2 for 1.698 acres, at a location of C21-015, C35-088, C35-106 (corner of N. Wall Street and Henderson Bend), by Fernandez Investments, LLC. The Zoning Advisory Board meet on January 9th.

- Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.
- Assistant City Administrator Worley gave the report on legal requirements and notices stating that all had been met.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the report on the Zoning Advisory Board stating that the Board was in favor of the zoning change request.
- Mayor Palmer opened the floor for public comments.
- There being none, Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing and called for a motion concerning the zoning change request.
- Councilwoman Palazzolo made a motion to approve the zoning change request of C-2. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

8. **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, Chapter 54 – Floods, Article II – Flood Damage Prevention; to amend certain other provisions of Chapter 54 to adopt certain standard codes as recommended by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The public hearing will be on January 27th.

B. Mayor Palmer gave the first reading of a Liquor pouring license, at a location of 802 North Wall Street, by Estela’s Taqueria. The owner/applicant, Suceli Monzon is also the store manager. Eligible for a public hearing February 10th. Councilman Denmon made a motion to set the public hearing date for February 10th. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

C. Mayor Palmer read a request from the Public Works Department to surplus the following items on GovDeals:

➤ **Cemetery Department**

2014 Redmax Edger #Or108SW/FT006

➤ **Street Department**

Warner Utility Service Truck Body #GZ23N

➤ **Park’s Department**

Asset # 11009 - Fedders 24000 BTU Air Conditioner #EJ2920101487

Asset # 00937 - 2014 Stihl Backpack Blower #299157758

Asset # 00929 - 2014 Stihl Straight Shaft Weed Eater #296560286

Asset # 00963 - 2016 Stihl Straight Shaft Weed Eater #506782158

Asset # 00961 - 2016 Stihl Straight Shaft Weed Eater #506782173
Asset # 00931 - 2014 Stihl Straight Shaft Weed Eater #296560277
Asset # 00865 - 2011 Stihl Straight Shaft Weed Eater #279648617
Asset # 00925 - 2013 John Deere Riding Mower # 1MOX300CPDM257397
Asset # 00917 - 2012 John Deere 38" Cut Mower # 1MOX300CCCM223639
Asset # 00845 - 2007 Gravely 2602 Zero Turn with Bagger #000759
Asset # 06087 - 2000 Ford F250 X2 Super Duty 4X4 Pickup #1FTNF21L1YEB51100

Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the surplus request. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- D. Mayor Palmer stated that the Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Audit had been discussed in detail at the noon work session and asked if there were any other comments pertaining to the audit. There being none, Mayor Palmer called for a motion concerning the Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Audit. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the audit. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved. The FY19 Audit is available on the City's website.
- E. Mayor Palmer called for a motion to approve/amend the budget calendar for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the budget calendar as presented. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- F. Mayor Palmer read a Resolution to adopt increased Freeport Exemptions as it pertains to inventory. He then gave the floor to Assistant City Administrator Worley to review the Freeport process. Mr. Worley stated that the City of Calhoun started increasing the Freeport exemption back in 2013 by going from 20% up to 40%, then 60% in 2015, and 80% in 2016. This proposed resolution would take Calhoun to the 100% exemption level starting in 2021 and thereby matching the current Freeport exemption level of Gordon County, Bartow County, Cartersville, Floyd/Rome, Whitfield County and many others who are at 100%. This exemption increase will help keep Calhoun on a level playing field when it comes to economic development and industrial recruitment. Calhoun has implemented Freeport at a slower pace than some of our surrounding areas, however, this slower pace has enabled Calhoun and Calhoun City Schools to maintain their low millage rates as opposed to other communities who have had significant increases in property taxes in recent years. Even though we have had a cautious approach to implementing 100% Freeport, due to location, education system, being a safe community, and low tax environment, we have been very successful in the economic development arena. 2018 was a record year for the Development Authority with over \$100 million in industrial revenue bonds issued, 2019 was also a very strong year with many projects. We have been very fortunate indeed, but there is always room for improvement. Therefore, I would recommend the adoption of the proposed resolution to help further our economic development efforts. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved. (copy attached)
- G. Mayor Palmer read a Special Event request by the Relay for Life planning committee for street closures for Trammel Street from North Piedmont Street to North Wall Street and North Piedmont Street from the corner of East Line Street to the corner of Trammel Street for Relay for Life 2020. Closing times would be from 1:00 pm until 11:00 pm. The event

will be held on Friday, May 1, 2020. Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the special event permit. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- H. Mayor Palmer announced that the DDA is requesting street closings in connection with the Annual BBQ Boogie & Blues Special Event. The professional BBQ competitors will be in Downtown to set up for the competition on Thursday, April 23, 2020. This will require that the short block of King Street between Court Street and Oothcalooga Street be limited access only. This block will remain closed until Saturday, April 25th at 9:00 pm. In addition to this short block closure, we request the section of Park Avenue from Harlen Street to Oothcalooga Street be closed/limited access only from Friday afternoon at 1:00 pm until Saturday at 7:00pm. We request permission to completely close the section of Court Street from King Street to Wall Street on Friday, April 24th from 3:00pm until 7:00pm Saturday, April 25th. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the event. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- I. Mayor Palmer read a Temporary Outdoor Alcohol Special Event Permit request for Wall Street Catering Company. This permit is in association with the annual BBQ, Boogie & Blues event, to allow the provision of alcohol by Wall Street Catering Company, currently holding a valid Class B beer and wine license for on premise consumption. Wall Street Catering Company will apply for their Alcohol Special Event permit with the Georgia Department of Revenue upon City approval. The permit request will be for Friday, April 24th from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, and Saturday, April 25th from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the temporary outdoor alcohol special event permit. Councilman Denmon gave a second with Mayor Pro Tem Crowley, Councilman Denmon, and Councilman Edwards voting aye and Councilwoman Palazzolo abstaining. Motion approved.
- J. Special Event request by John Graves and Marcus Palazzolo to hold a Georgia Tech Bicycle Race in Downtown Calhoun on Sunday, March 8th. The road closure request is for 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with the affected roads being Park Avenue, Hicks Street, Wall Street, and Trammell Street. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the special event permit. Councilman Denmon gave a second with Mayor Pro Tem Crowley, Councilman Denmon, and Councilman Edwards voting aye and Councilwoman Palazzolo abstaining. Motion approved.
- K. Mayor Palmer read a recommendation by the Development Authority of Gordon County for the reappointment of Mr. Jim Mathews to the Board of Directors. This would be for a four year term expiring March, 2024. Councilman Edwards made a motion to reappoint Mr. Mathews. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- L. Mayor Palmer read a request from Calhoun Police Department to purchase from the State Forfeiture account two (2) Speed Detection Signs at a cost of \$6,530, and two (2) cases of 9MM Ammunition (six month supply) for SRT Training at a cost of \$360. Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the request. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

- M. Mayor Palmer called for a motion regarding Mayor Pro Tem for 2020. Councilman Edwards nominated Mayor Pro Tem Crowley to continue serving as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved
- N. Mayor Palmer gave the 2020 late business license renewal reading for Titlemax of Georgia. Councilman Denmon made a motion to approve the business license. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.
- O. Mayor Palmer gave the 2020 late business license renewal reading for Food Mart. Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to approve the business license. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. Motion approved.

9. **Other Written Items Not on the Agenda**

10. **Work Reports**

- A. Paul Worley, Assistant City Administrator had nothing to report.
- B. Larry Vickery, Utilities Administrator informed council members that Calnet would be obtaining a loan from the Electric Department to update their switch system. This will be done in lieu of a purchase lease agreement. Mr. Vickery also informed those present that GEFA had offered Calhoun Utilities the first opportunity to do solar with a 50% match for up to \$50K in funds. Calhoun Utilities plans to file the application tomorrow. This will be in participation with Calhoun City Schools and the Electric Department. Mr. Vickery stated that he saw this as a great learning experience for Calhoun City School students.
- C. George Govignon, City Attorney had nothing to report.

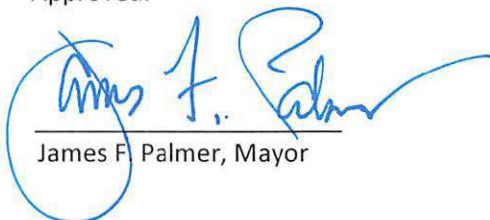
11. **Motion to move to Executive Session, if needed**

12. **Motion to return to General Session**

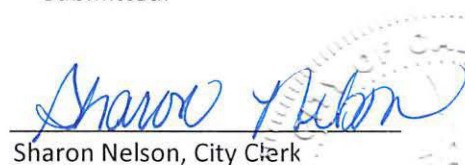
13. **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Council Mayor Pro Tem Crowley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Denmon gave a second with all voting aye. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

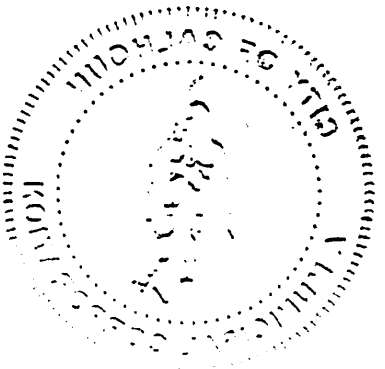
Approved:


James F. Palmer, Mayor

Submitted:


Sharon Nelson, City Clerk





CITY OF CALHOUN, GEORGIA

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT INCREASED
FREEPORT EXEMPTIONS AS TO
INVENTORY PURSUANT TO
O.C.G.A. SECTION 48-5-48.2**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 48-5-48.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (as authorized by Article VII Section II Paragraph III of the 1983 Constitution of the State of Georgia) the 1994 referendum approved by the electorate of the City of Calhoun, known more simply as the Freeport Referendum, regarding the exemption of certain property as described in the aforementioned provisions, and

WHEREAS, the electors of the City of Calhoun, Georgia have approved in said 1994 referendum the exemption of all three classes of inventory described in the aforementioned provisions, namely;

- Class I: Inventory of goods in the process of manufacture or production which shall include all partly finished goods and raw materials held for direct use or consumption in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's manufacturing or production business in the State of Georgia.
- Class II: Inventory of finished goods manufactured or produced within the State of Georgia in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's manufacturing or production business when held by the original manufacturer or producer of said finished goods, and
- Class III: Inventory of finished goods which, on the first day of January, are stored in a warehouse, dock, or wharf, whether public or private, and which are destined for a shipment to a final destination outside the State of Georgia and inventory of finished goods which are shipped into the State of Georgia from outside this State and stored for transshipment to a final destination outside this State.

WHEREAS, since the 1994 referendum vote several resolutions have been considered and approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun (its governing authority) in 1995 and later in 2006 creating an exemption of twenty percent (20%) for all three classifications of product described by O.C.G.A. §48-5-48.2; and

WHEREAS, since the 1994 referendum vote several resolutions have been considered and approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun (its governing authority) in 1995 and later in 2006 creating an exemption of twenty percent (20%) for all three classifications of product described by O.C.G.A. §48-5-48.2 and these exemptions were increased to forty percent (40%) on January 1, 2014 by resolution in 2013; and these exemptions were increased to sixty percent (60%) on January 1, 2015 by resolution in 2014; and these exemptions were increased to eighty percent (80%) on November 23, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun (its governing authority) wish to implement and increase the exemptions approved by the voters as herein before described in accordance with the power vested by O.C.G.A. §48-5-48.2(e).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Calhoun that the statutorily provided tax exemptions shall be provided for each classification of product as follows:

- Class I: The class of inventory described as inventory of goods in the process of manufacture and production which shall include all partly finished goods and raw materials held for direct use or consumption in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's business in the State of Georgia be hereby exempt from ad valorem taxation at the rate of one hundred per cent (100%) of the value of said property as defined in the aforementioned Code provision, with said exemption commencing January 1, 2021; and

- Class II: The class of inventory of finished goods manufactured or produced within the State of Georgia in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's manufacturing or production business when held by the original manufacturer or producer of said finished goods be hereby exempt from ad valorem taxation at the rate of one hundred per cent (100%) of the value of said property as defined in the aforementioned Code provisions, with said exemption commencing January 1, 2021; and

- Class III: The class of inventory of finished goods which, on the first day of January, are stored in a warehouse, dock or wharf, whether public or private, and which are destined for a shipment to a final destination outside the State of Georgia and inventory of finished goods which are shipped into the State of Georgia from outside this State and stored for transshipment to a final destination outside this State be hereby exempt from ad valorem taxation at the rate of one hundred per cent (100%) of the value of said property as

defined in the aforementioned Code provisions, with said exemption commencing January 1, 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Clerk/Administrator is further directed to immediately transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Georgia State Revenue Commissioners.

RESOLVED this 13th day of January, 2020.



JAMES F. PALMER, MAYOR



GEORGE CROWLEY, MAYOR PRO TEM



JACQUELINE PALAZZOLO, COUNCILWOMAN



RAY DENMON, COUNCILMAN



AL EDWARDS, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST:



SHARON NELSON, CITY CLERK



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