

**CITY OF CALHOUN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DEPOT COMMUNITY ROOM
109 SOUTH KING ST
JULY 18, 2016 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

ALSO: Eddie Peterson, City Administrator; Larry Vickery, Utilities General Manager; Paul Worley, City Clerk; George Govignon, City Attorney; Garry Moss, Police Chief; Jerry Crawford, Water and Sewer Director; Jeff Defoor, Director of Electric Utilities; Lenny Nesbitt, Fire Chief

1. Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.
 - A. Mayor Palmer gave the invocation.
2. Mayor Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
3. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilman Hammond seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion approved.
4. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2016 City Council Meeting. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the June 20, 2016 Executive Session minutes. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
5. **Mayor's Comments:**
 - A. Mayor Palmer stated that there would not be a work session on Thursday, July 21st. However, there will be a special called meeting on Wednesday, July 20th at 6:00pm at the Calhoun Depot.
6. **Council Comments:**
 - A. Councilman Edwards gave the June report as follows:
 - 1) **Water, Sewer, and Engineering**
 - o The 2" Galvanized Line Replacement Project –The project as a whole is approximately 50% complete. Thor Drive, Hunt's Subdivision, and Spring Valley, and Davis Road have been completed. The next project areas, Edwards Street, Fox Street, Short Street, and West Street is under construction.

- Flocculation and Sedimentation Control Project at the Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant- The project has been completed except for a failure in a section of piping, which will be corrected by the contractor.
- The new NPDES permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant went into effect March 1, 2016. We have twenty-four months to have everything in place and operating in order to meet the new phosphorus limit, but new testing and reporting parameters are in effect now. The required Design Development Report has been submitted to EPD. Plans and specifications are due by December 2016.
- New Wastewater NPDES Permit Pilot Program- Implementation of the pilot program for phosphorus removal is underway and should be completed by the end of August 2016.
- The Nutrient Trading Monitoring Pilot Program is underway. The first phase, funded by a Section 319 Grant should be completed by the end of September 2016.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Motor Control Center Upgrades Phase one- The contractor is scheduled to begin work within the next few weeks.
- South Calhoun By-Pass utility relocations- GDOT gave us a "Notice to Proceed" on February 19th. GDOT has awarded the road project to Wright Brothers Construction. Pre-construction meeting for the utilities is pending resolution of wetlands issues.

2) Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Total gallons withdrawn: 328,620,000
- Daily average: 10,954,000
- Wells: 77,080,000
- Big Springs: 59,500,000
- Percent produced by Brittany Drive: 41.6
- Brittany Dr. daily production to capacity: 38.3%
- Mauldin Rd. daily production to capacity: 40.0%
- Rainfall- 2.74"

3) Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility

- Treated a daily average of 3.156 MGD, with an average BOD effluent of 4, average suspended effluent of 10, and an average COD of 64.

4) Water Distribution

- 360 work orders completed, 12 new water connections, 32 water service leaks repaired, 16 water main leaks repaired, 37 utility locates called in for work orders, 372 utility locates responses.
- Installed 1,600' of 6" ductile iron pipe in the phase one recreation project to serve irrigation system with high pressure water.
- Installed 750' of 2" HDPE pipe along McGill Mountain Road to serve new water connection.

5) Waste Water Collection

- 1,250' Sanitary Sewer Services TV inspected, 255 utility locates

completed, 5,800' sanitary sewer lines cleaned, 2 new sewer connections installed, 2 sanitary sewer services repaired.

6) Building Inspection Department

- Issued 39 permits for an estimated cost of \$5,425,044, collected \$20,353 in permit fees. This included 2 new residential, 5 residential remodeling, 2 new commercial, 2 commercial remodel/Addition, 2 industrial remodel/addition, 2 signs, and 117 total inspections.

7) Recreation Department

- Park Expansion Project – JLI, Inc. continues construction of the Calhoun Park – Phase I and is still on target for an August completion date. Construction Progress meetings were held on June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.
- Youth Baseball and Softball – All-Star teams participated in GRPA District and State tournaments June 20-28, 2016. Six teams represented Calhoun. 7-8 Coach Pitch baseball - #1 team 1st Place GRPA District tournament. 9-10 Baseball – 1st Place GRPA District tournament. Both teams advanced to GRPA State tournaments – July 13-16, 2016.
- Swim – There were 102 boys and girls registered for Blue Barracudas for this summer. Our agency and the Blue Barracudas host the GRPA District Swim meet June 25, 2016. A total of 248 swimmers participated in the district swim meet representing Gilmer, Catoosa, Pickens, and Calhoun. 55 Blue Barracudas advanced to the GRPA State meet which was held July 15-16, 2016.
- Camps – Adventure Camps were held during the month of June with the following participants: Sports Adventure Camp – June 6-10 with 13 participants; Water Adventure Camp – June 13-17 with 26 participants; Earth Adventure Camp – June 20-24 with 25 participants. Adventure Camp will be held July 18-22 and July 25-27.
- Tennis – 50 plus children ages 6-11 have participated in a 6 weeks of camp. 400 plus have used the courts for the month of June on a weekly basis. 50 participants have registered for Tennis 101/102.
- Tournaments – ASA Invitational-June 4-26 teams; Men's one pitch June 18-6 teams.
- **2016 JULY EVENTS**
July 8, 15, 22, 29- Friday Night One Pitch Tournaments
Adventure Camp- July 18-22; July 25-27

B. Councilman Barton gave the June report as follows:

1) Police Department

- Made 604 cases with 4 DUI's
- Fines collected by Municipal Court - \$45,141
- Issued 444 warnings
- Investigated 40 highway accidents, 49 private property accidents
- Provided 94 escorts
- 1,585 incident reports
- Responded to 385 alarms

- Miles patrolled: 29,347 through June 17th
- Responded to 4,412 calls for service by E-911

2) Municipal Court and Probation

- Total Court cases- 285
- Court cases dropped- 67
- Number of Bond forfeitures- 169
- Number of Probation cases- 25
- Failure to appear- 40
- Subpoenas served- 5

3) Fire Department- Suppression

- Responded to 175 calls for service for the suppression division, 9 fire incidents for damages with \$27,002 in estimated fire damage.
- Responded to 109 medical service calls.
- Responded to 8 hazardous conditions incidents.
- Responded to 23 false alarms or false calls, 20 good intent.
- Conducted fire safety class for Camp New Adventure at Station one.
- Participated in water days for Brighter Tomorrow Day Care.
- Gave a fire safety education class at the Boys and Girls Club.
- Worked a mutual aid agreement call with Gordon County Fire on a brush fire off Hwy 53 West behind the cattle sales barn due to them being on another fire call.

Training Division

- Department completed 537 hours of training.
- Training consisted of: search and SCBA training, apparatus operator training, staff attended the crisis track disaster reporting software class at Gordon Emergency Management office.

4) Fire Inspection Department

- 91 total reported activities/inspections which included 18 annual inspections, 4 new business inspections, 21 requested inspections, 12 follow-up or re-inspections, and 33 consultations.
- Conducted fire extinguisher classes for George Chambers Center.
- Attended the active shooter training at the Depot.

5) Downtown Development Authority

- The DDA in conjunction with the Gordon County CVB had another successful downtown event in June. Paddle Georgia had a street party in the Depot parking lot and the party featured food, music, dancing and a canoe tug-o-war competitions in a large portable pool from Cedar Creek Park & Outdoor Center.
- The DDA is in the process of planning an outdoor movie night in August.
- Harvest Fest is planned for October 22nd and we are going to be starting Twilight Thursday's on the first Thursday of the month. Local downtown shops and restaurants will be open after regular business hours for citizens to come enjoy a night of shopping and dining in downtown.

C. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave the June report as follows:

1) **Street Department**

- Completed 15 shop and 19 street department work orders.
- Placed 11 new street signs.
- Inspected and maintained 103 miles of streets and storm drainage.
- Repaired utility cuts and pot holes using approximately 23 tons of asphalt.
- Performed routine maintenance on the Kirby Road Bike Trail.

2) **Cemetery Department**

- Performed routine maintenance on Fain and Chandler Cemetery.
- Supervised the opening and closing of 7 grave sites.
- Sold 23 new grave spaces.

3) **Parks Department**

- The Parks Department grounds crew picked up litter, hauled garbage to the dump, and maintained records at records room.
- Mowed and weeded approximately 19 miles of sidewalks, 29 islands, and 42 other designated places in the City.
- Bush hogged all right of way in the City.
- The building and maintenance crew performed routine maintenance on designed city buildings and all fountains.

4) **Animal Control**

- Housed 26 dogs and 32 cats
- Number of dogs adopted: 11
- Number of cats adopted: 3
- Number of dogs rescued: 2
- Number of cats rescued: 29
- Number of dogs reclaimed by owner: 5
- Number of dogs euthanized: 1
- Number of cats euthanized: 0
- Number of warnings given: 21
- Number of bite cases: 0
- Citations issues: 0
- Number of inquiries: 59

5) **Safety Committee**

- Safety topic- Working in hot conditions
- Safety Inspection- Water and Sewer Construction
- Vehicle Accidents: 0
- Workers Compensation: 1- Electric Department

D. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond gave the June report as follows:

1) **Electric Department**

- Installed three new services at Gilmore Circle.

- Installed temporary service for Family Savings so construction can begin.
- Storms resulted in many temporary outages, but no major outages.
- Construction is scheduled to begin on providing power to 35 lots for the Lenox Phase #2 development.
- Electrical Engineering has begun on an additional 300 kVA service at Apache and a 1,500 kVA service at Liberty Tire.
- The City of Calhoun's Electrical load for June was 41,937,000 kWh. This is about 3% less than last year's record.
- Mayor Pro Tem Hammond reported on the Mayor and City Council's attendance to the annual MEAG conference. The City is a member of the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG) and as such a part owner of nuclear power generated at Plant Vogtle. Plant Vogtle is currently undergoing an expansion with reactors number three and four, which are scheduled to come online in years 2019 and 2020, respectively. These will be the first nuclear reactors to come online in the United States in 35 years and it is a \$14 billion project. The City of Calhoun owns around \$200 million of this project and it will help supply the City's power needs for the next 40 to 50 years. This helps Calhoun by reducing our carbon footprint and we currently have 61% of our energy coming from green energy sources. If more government environmental regulations are implemented, this will have Calhoun well positioned to meet the more stringent environmental regulations.

Work orders in process or completed

- Newly created- 64
- Completed and closed- 77
- Consisting of:
 - Capital construction- 4
 - Street and security lighting-23
 - Distribution Maintenance-9
 - Meter maintenance/replacement- 11
 - New customer meter sets- 7
 - Electric locate tickets processed- 242

2) Telecommunications Departments:

- Installed internet for two new customers and started fiber construction for a third.
- Continued validation testing of new access equipment. Plan to start replacing customer equipment in July.
- Upgraded reporting software on Police Department computers.
- Installed six security cameras for Water Treatment. Two at Big Springs, two at raw water intake and two at the water plant.
- Opened and closed 25 work orders.

3) Geographic Information Systems:

- Upgraded server and client computers to ArcGIS 10.4.1
- Continued mapping storm water system.
- Updated City fire hydrant flow data for 2016.

- Generated Sewer System report for comprehensive planning.
- Updated meter data for Water system and participated in work sessions for GIS Water Modeling.
- Performed GIS and GPS training for Electric Department.
- Updated fire pre-plans for buildings for fire department.
- Updated physical addresses, building and billing information.
- Updated zoning maps.
- Updated City and GIS websites.

4) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

- The Regional Commission (RC) oversees 15 counties and 51 cities in Northwest Georgia that helps to reallocate federal dollars to various programs that benefit the citizens such as meals on wheels, workforce training, community planning, area on aging, and community and economic development.
- The RC has finalized the next Fiscal Year budget and closed out this year's budget.
- Gordon County's unemployment rate for May 2016 is down to 4.7% and the State's is at 5.3%. The regional unemployment rate is now 4.8%. Whitfield County is 5%, Murray County is 6.1%, Floyd County is 5.3%, and Bartow is 4.5%. The low unemployment rate is great for Gordon County, but we are constantly looking at ways to attract, retain, and recruit higher wage jobs, higher technical jobs, and more diversity of jobs.

5) 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. The six counties that have more aircraft have populations of 150,000 or great, where Gordon County only has 56,000. The airport has a 6,000 foot runway, where most others only have 5,000 foot. Therefore, our airport can handle larger corporate jets for local industry. Also, the airport will received \$7-10 million dollars in Federal funding to build a parallel taxiway that will enable the airport to handle more traffic in and out. The Airport Authority is looking at expansions of hanger space and long term plans for the airport. Future expansions will allow the airport to grow even more and grow the positive local economic impact.

7. Public Hearings and Comments:

- A. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for a variance request by Jarrett Volzer at a location of 517 Oothcalooga Street, Suite C. The variance request is a 25 foot variance from the required 30 foot front setback to build a covered parking structure.

- Administrator Peterson stated that all advertising requirements have been met.

Calhoun City Council Minutes, July 18, 2016

- Mayor Palmer stated that the Zoning Advisory Board was scheduled to meet on July 7th. However, there was not a quorum present to take action. The Zoning Review Committee minutes were made available to the Council for review.
 - Mayor Palmer asked for comments. There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
 - Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the variance request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- B. Mayor Palmer opened a public hearing for of an annexation and zoning request of C-2 for 0.55 acres at a location of West Belmont Drive (parcel #GC28-038 and GC28-046) by Shelby Peeples D/B/A Specialty Property Investments, LLC.
- Administrator Peterson stated that all advertising requirements have been met.
 - Mayor Palmer stated that the Zoning Advisory Board was scheduled to meet on July 7th. However, there was not a quorum present to take action. The Zoning Review Committee minutes were made available to the Council for review.
 - Attorney Terry Brumlow spoke on behalf of the applicant and made himself available for questions. Mr. Larry Roye was also in attendance and discussed the First Bank's plans to build a new bank in Calhoun. Mr. Roye stated that they are excited about the project and already have architects and contractors working on the project. They plan to have a ground breaking in the next 30-45 days. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked if there will be at least two entrances/exits into the property and also a possible third. Mr. Roye confirmed that there would be at least two and maybe three entrances/exits to the property.
 - Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
 - Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the annexation request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
 - Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the zoning request of C-2. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- C. Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing for a zoning change request from R-1 to C-2 for 0.74 acres at a location of West Belmont Drive (parcel # C28-039 and C28-040) by Shelby Peeples D/B/A Specialty Property Investments, LLC.
- Administrator Peterson stated that all advertising requirements have been met.
 - Mayor Palmer stated that the Zoning Advisory Board was scheduled to meet on July 7th. However, there was not a quorum present to take action. The Zoning Review Committee minutes were made available to the Council for review.

- Mayor Palmer asked for additional comments. There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.
- Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the zoning change request. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

- A. Mayor Palmer stated that the Council received a request from Ed and Jane Powers Weldon, 511 College Street, to discuss and present a resolution of support for strict regulations of fracking within the State of Georgia. Mrs. Weldon addressed the Mayor and Council first and thanked them for the opportunity. Mrs. Weldon discussed her lifelong connections to Calhoun and Gordon County and expressed her concerns about certain practices, such as hydraulic fracturing, that could potentially jeopardize the cleanness of our community's water resources. Mrs. Weldon advocated for a balance between the oil and gas exploration and proper regulations to ensure it is done safely. Mr. Weldon also spoke of his concerns on the issue and when he heard of the exploration activity in Floyd County they decided to contact the Coosa River Basin Initiative for help. Mr. Weldon stated that they would be taking this resolution of support before the Gordon County Board of Commissioners as well. The resolution is basically asking the State of Georgia to put a moratorium on any hydraulic fracturing until they have a chance to study the issue and get appropriate regulations in place first. Mr. Weldon provided handouts to the Mayor and Council showing the significant ground water recharge areas in Gordon County and extending through Northwest Georgia. Also, Mr. Weldon read from the City of Calhoun's budget document the statistics of the extensive investment and area of coverage for the City's water supply. Joseph Evans, 105 Cherry Hill Circle, stated that he also was in support of the resolution. Mr. Evans encouraged everyone to look at what is happening in Pennsylvania and Oklahoma due to the fracking in those areas. Mr. Evans stated that they are dealing with groundwater contamination and increased earthquake activity. Mr. Evans stated that he believed the short term financial benefits were not worth the potential long term environmental damage. Joe Cook, Advocacy and Communications Coordinator for the Coosa River Basin Initiative, also addressed the Mayor and Council in support of the resolution. Mr. Cook stated that it was their goal to present this resolution to all counties and cities within the Northwest Georgia region for adoption. Mr. Cook continued that his organization has had meetings and discussions with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to identify gaps in the current law. Still in use today is legislation passed in 1975. Some of the gaps discussed were the lack of public notifications by a company applying for a permit, wells can be placed as close as 330 feet from a property line, the companies do not have to disclose what type of chemicals they are using, and there is no mechanism for the inspection of ground wells to monitor possible contaminates. Also, there is no severance tax at the state level to help finance the needed monitoring of the ground wells. The group is particularly concerned about the Conasauga Shale formation next to the Conasauga

River. There has been three well permits applied for in Georgia. One was in Floyd County and the other two were in Whitfield County. The price of oil and natural gas are low right now so they did not think there was an eminent threat. However, their goal is to get needed regulations in place before it is too late. Mr. Cook stated they have already drafted legislation and they are looking for sponsors in the General Assembly and also hope Governor Deal will make it a priority for the next General Session. Mayor Palmer thanked everyone for their comments. Mayor Palmer stated that they have been reviewing the resolution and have also completed additional research. However, the Council feels like they need more time to study the issues. The Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia has provided some information as well and they just need more time to review the material and websites provided to be able to make an informed decision. Mayor Palmer stated that the City's water resources and all environmental issues for our community are very important to consider. Councilman Barton stated that Mr. Weldon made some great points about the City's investment in Big Springs and other water resources, which shows how vested the City is in providing clean and safe drinking water to our community and surrounding communities. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond stated that he was against the resolution coming into the meeting, but after hearing the presentations it has given him some things to think about and consider. Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked if they had reached out to State Representative and Rules Committee Chairman John Meadows about this issue. Mr. Cook stated they are trying to get in contact with him. Mayor Palmer stated that he would talk with Mr. Meadows about this issue and share the groups concerns and how many people showed up to support this resolution. Councilwoman Palazzolo stated that she was also looking into the investor, Jerry Spalvieri, who is proposing leases to certain property owners to acquire mineral rights in Northwest Georgia. Mayor Palmer stated that water is one of our most valuable resources and we are all concerned with protecting it. Mayor Palmer stated that they will do more research on the subject and also discuss this with the Gordon County Commission, EPD, and Mr. Meadows.

- B. Mayor Palmer stated that this item has been withdrawn.
- C. Mayor Palmer conducted the first reading of a Taxi Cab License request for Maximiliano Campos D/B/A: Taxi Max at a location of 100 East May Street. Councilman Hammond made a motion to set the public hearing on August 8th. Councilwoman Palazzolo gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- D. Mayor Palmer read a Taxi Cab License renewal request for Isidro Barrera D/B/A: Taxi El Aguila at a location of 820 North Wall Street. Councilman Barton made a motion to approve the renewal request. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- E. Mayor Palmer stated that the Utility Division has made a request to charge off \$153,984.48 of unpaid utility bills for Fiscal Year 2015. This represents only 1/27 of 1% of billed services. Total billed services are \$55,517,419.61. Councilman Hammond made a motion to approve the charge offs. Councilman Barton gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.
- F. The Downtown Development Authority requests permission to close Park Avenue from Harlan Street to Hicks Street and Court Street from Wall Street to King Street for Harvest Fest 2016. This is the typical festival area - closing times would be from 8 am until 6 pm, Saturday, October 22, 2016. Councilman Barton made a motion to

approve the road closure request. Councilman Edwards gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved.

- G. Mayor Palmer read a recommendation by the Calhoun-Gordon County Library Board of Trustees to re-appoint Kyle Smith to another three year term. The term would expire July 1, 2019. Councilman Barton made a motion to re-appoint Kyle Smith to the Library Board for another three year term. Councilman Hammond gave a second with all voting aye, motion approved. Mayor Palmer thanked Mr. Smith who was in attendance for his service and thanked all those who volunteer for the many boards and committees. The volunteers who give of their time and talents mean a lot to the community.

10. Other written items not on the agenda: None

11. Work Reports:

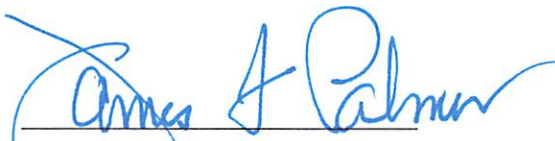
A. Administrator Eddie Peterson

- Administrator Peterson stated that the City will open bids for phase one of the Peters Street Project on August 18th. The City has already relocated its water and sewer lines in anticipation of the project. However, there are other utilities that the City does not have control over who have more relocation work to complete and it has been a slow process.

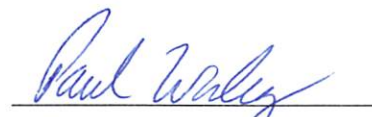
12. Before adjourning Mayor Pro Tem Hammond thanked the Calhoun Police Department and police officers everywhere for the job they do to keep us safe day in and day out. Also, the Mayor and City Council will be holding a special called meeting on Wednesday, July 20th at 6:00pm at the Depot to discuss our Police Department needs. The City needs to have plans in place to meet the needs of a growing population and encouraged those in attendance to come to the meeting and participate in the discussion. Being no further comments, Councilman Barton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Palazzolo with all voting aye, motion approved.

Approved:

Submitted:



James F. Palmer, Mayor



Paul Worley, City Clerk