



CALHOUN COUNTY COUNCIL

James E. Haigler, Chairman
Ken Westbury, Vice Chairman
Richard Carson
Cecil M. Thornton, Jr.
Rebecca A Bonnette

John E. McLauchlin, Administrator
Shayla C. Jenkins, Clerk to Council
Richard Hall, Deputy Administrator

May 26, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to provide more information regarding the need for funding in order to replace the outdated irrigation at the County owned, public Calhoun Hills Golf Complex. The current irrigation system was installed around 1985 with the cost and labor coming from local farmers and community members. Materials used in the installation during that time do not meet current standards (thin walled, flexible piping). The entire irrigation, over the years has continued to fail and now we are at a point where we cannot “patch” anymore.

Calhoun County was asked to purchase this community golf course in 2018 after years of struggling by the local members to maintain and operate. County Council approved the purchase of the golf course in order to provide a recreational opportunity for our citizens to have a better quality of life. The golf course has been and still is one of the County’s only recreational amenities. With the County owning its own course, we have already seen the advantage and selling point in promoting our County to Economic Development prospects and companies.

Without dependable irrigation the course’s ability to maintain existing play and attract new play is totally dependent on mother-nature for its watering. Unfortunately, the County is not in a position financially to address this recreation improvement. To find out how much it would cost to install new irrigation on 18 holes, the County publicly advertised



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with a competitive bid and received a low bid of \$750,000, so we feel comfortable in our requested amount. Our local funds and tax dollars are having to go into operational needs in order to make the course better but we know, without irrigation, it will only go so far. We have been fortunate to have rainfall, especially last year as the Calhoun Hill Golf Complex was voted the **#4 Most Improved Courses in the Country** by NBC's GolfPass. With dependable irrigation, we know we can achieve better.

Again, thank you for your consideration for our Recreation improvement request. Feel free to contact me anytime.

Link to GolfPass article and course description:

https://www.golfpass.com/travel-advisor/best-of/golfers-choice-2023-most-improved-courses?fbclid=IwAR0FBHO_c6Uq8p0MKZBcUbVNrZDwuLk6JrU-emLow1OUIZbXc0ZSqwKwsIE

Sincerely,

County Administrator