1. Call to Order
Mayor Rick Roberts called the August 10, 2006 meeting of the Ball Ground City Council to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members Present: John Byrd, Ashley Holcomb, Frank Homiller, Lee Prettyman & Andrenia Stoner


The following City Staff was also present: Sergeant Coy Turner, City Attorney Darrell Caudill, City Adm. Eric Wilmarth, City Clerk Karen L. Jordan, Finance Dir. Shena Angel, Customer Service Clerk Doreen Hobbs, and Public Works Director J. C. Cornett.

2. Appearances
Mark Robillard of Robillard Architects presented an update on the status of the proposed New City Hall. The time line for bid, bid opening, etc. is as follows:
   Advertise for competitive proposals from general contractors – August 18 & 25.
   Pre Proposal Meeting – September 1, 2006
   Bids Due – September 22, 2006 no later than 2:00 PM
   Review of Bids – Appx. Two weeks

Approve Minutes of the July 20, 2006 Council Meeting
Motion by Council Member Stoner, Seconded by Council Member Holcomb to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2006 Meeting of Council as submitted in writing by the City Clerk. Vote 5 Yeas 0 Nays

4. Old Business
   a) 2nd Read of Annexation Petition 2006-07-03 – Valley St. Station, LLC
Mayor Roberts introduced Annexation Petition 2006-07-03 for a second reading.
Valley Street Station, LLC has petitioned for the annexation of 2.90 acres into the City of Ball Ground. The property is located at 145 Old Canton Road and is contiguous to the existing city limits on the south, west and east sides of the property. The proposed use of the property is for commercial development however at this time the current zoning is R-40.
Council Member Prettyman moved to accept this petition as submitted. Council Member Stoner seconded the motion. Vote 4 Yeas 0 Nays Council Member Holcomb abstained.

3. New Business

a) 1st Read of Annexation Petition 2006-08-04 Virginia Painter, Petitioner
Mayor Roberts introduced Annexation Petition 2006-08-04 for a first reading. The petition is for the annexation of 6.95 acres into the City of Ball Ground. The property is located at 1035 Cartersville Street in Land Lots 66 and 79 of the 3rd District, 2nd Section of Cherokee County and is contiguous to the existing city limits on the East boundary. Residential development is the proposed use of the property and is currently zoned AG. A petition to rezone the property will be submitted to the Cherokee Planning and Zoning Department for consideration.

Council Member Holcomb moved to accept Annexation Petition 2006-08-05 as presented. Council Member Prettyman seconded the motion. Vote 5 Yeas 0 Nays

b) 1st Read of Annexation Petition 2006-08-05 Max Brand, Petitioner
Mayor Roberts introduced Annexation Petition 2006-08-05 for a first reading. Mr. Brand has petitioned for the annexation of 100.47 acres into the City of Ball Ground. The property is located on Jordan Road in Land Lots 299, 300 and 310 of the 4th District, 2nd Section of Cherokee County and is contiguous to the existing city limits on the South boundary. The proposed use of the property is for residential development and is currently zoned R-40.

Council Member Homiller moved to accept Annexation Petition 2006-08-05 as presented. Council Member Stoner seconded the motion. Vote 5 Yeas 0 Nays

c) 1st Reading of Ordinance to Regulate Pawn Shops
An ordinance enacted in accordance with the plan designed for the purposes, among others, of prompting the health and general welfare of the community, to establish reasonable and standards for the regulations and control of pawnshops or similar places where money is advanced on goods or other effects, or merchandise of any kind is taken in pawn was introduced for Mayor and Council Members consideration.

City Adm. Wilmarth stated this ordinance mirrors the Cherokee County Ordinance and recommended Council adopt the same. At this time we have a request to open a pawn shop in Holcomb Crossing therefore it is important Council act as soon as possible stated City Adm. Wilmarth.

Council Member Stoner moved to accept the Ordinance to Regulate Pawn Shops Section 7-8-1 as a first reading. Council Member Holcomb seconded the motion. Vote 5 Yeas 0 Nays
d) **Case #06-08-048 W S Latham Properties, LLC.** Requesting to rezone property from AG to R-20. If rezoned, the property would be utilized for an addition to Olde Mill Subdivision. The property is located on Cartersville Street and described as Cherokee County Tax Map 03N01, Part of 101.

Motion by Council Member Byrd to approve Latham Properties, LLC request to rezone property on Cartersville Street with the following condition: Mr. Latham is expected to fulfill his verbal agreement with the Cherokee County Board of Education to contribute $1,000.00 per house built in the Olde Mill Subdivision to offset the impact imposed on the school system. Council Member Stoner seconded the motion. Vote 4 Yeas 0 Nays Council Member Prettyman abstained.

e) **Case #06-08-049 W S Latham Properties, LLC.** Requesting to rezone property from LI to R-15. If rezoned, the property would be utilized for an addition to Olde Mill Subdivision. The property is located on Cartersville Street and described as Cherokee County Tax Map 04N02, Parcel 23.

Motion by Council Member Stoner to approve Latham Properties, LLC request to rezone property on Cartersville Street with the following condition: Mr. Latham is expected to fulfill his verbal agreement with the Cherokee County Board of Education to contribute $1,000.00 per house built in the Olde Mill Subdivision to offset the impact imposed on the school system. Council Member Byrd seconded the motion. Vote 4 Yeas 0 Nays Council Member Prettyman abstained.

f) **Consider Speed Limit Changes for SR 372, Canton Hwy, Old Canton Rd., Howell Bridge Extension, Coy M. Holcomb, and Valley St.**

Officer Bryon Reeves conducted a study of speed limits on several city streets. His findings and recommendation were compiled and submitted to Chief Davis for his review. Upon review by Chief Davis, Sgt. Coy Turner presented the following report.

- a) Old Canton Road beginning at Depot St. and continuing south to Coy Holcomb Dr. reduce speed limit from 45 to 35 mph.
- b) Hwy. 372 (Gilmer Ferry Rd.) north bound to Roberts Lake Rd. reduce from 35 to 25 mph.
- c) Beginning at Roberts Lake Rd. continuing to Cherokee Village Dr. the speed limit would remain at 35 mph.
- d) Cherokee Village Drive to south of Preserve Pkwy reduce the speed limit from 50 and 55 mph to 45 mph.
- e) Beginning at Mineral Springs Rd. to city limits north reduce from 50 & 55 mph to 45 mph.
- f) Coy Holcomb Dr., Valley Street and Howell Bridge Extensions speed limit set at 25 mph due to the potential congestion of the area and the day care facility located on Valley Street.
g) Old Dawsonville Rd. provided the entire roadway is taken into the city set speed limit at 25 mph due to the limited site distance and new residences locating to that area.
h) Beginning at Cliff Holcomb Dr. continuing to Howell Bridge Rd. reduce speed limit form 45 mph to 35 mph due to added congestion from Coy Holcomb Dr. and Lantern Walk Development.

Mayor Roberts and Council Members discussed the proposed changes.

Council Member Stoner expressed a desire to lower the speed limit to 25 mph rather than the recommended 45 mph beginning at Ball Ground Methodist extending south to Howell Bridge Road.

Mayor Roberts and Council Members continued discussion.

Following discussion Council Member Stoner moved to table the recommendations until further discussion with the police department. Following additional discussion Council Member Stoner moved to amend her motion to include setting speed limits of 25 mph for Coy M. Holcomb and all residential areas with sidewalks. Council Member Holcomb seconded the motion.

Vote 5 Yeas 0 Nays

Sgt. Turner stated the recommendations submitted by the department were based on the Uniform Rules of the Road.

Council Member Holcomb then moved to table the recommended speed limits for Canton Hwy and SR 372. Council Member Prettyman seconded the motion.

Vote 5 Yeas 0 Nays

g) Water System Presentation by Pat Batchelor of Rindt McDuff

Mr. Batchelor of Rindt McDuff and Assoc. spoke to Mayor Roberts and Council Members on the status of our existing water system, future water needs, and outlined what believed to be our most critical future water projects.

Three options for future sources of water were presented to council by Mr. Batchelor.

Option 1…..Consider use of surface water.
Option 2…..Connect to the CCWSA line at East Cherokee Dr.
Option 3…..Continue exploration of ground water

Mayor Roberts asked how feasible would it be to treat surface water?

Mr. Batchelor replied it is expensive but it could be done.
Public Works Superintendent J. C. Cornett stated his recommendation would be to connect to the CCWSA line at East Cherokee Dr. As we continue to grow this option would best serve the system.

Mayor Roberts suggested moving forward to obtain funding from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority to build the connection.

Council Member Homiller expressed his concern about the debt the city would incur to fund the project.

City Adm. Wilmarth stated the tap fees and other related charges from new development would support the debt.

Mayor Roberts asked what the number of feet of asbestos pipe was in our system.

Public Works Superintendent Cornett replied he was unsure of the number of feet but did name several streets where the pipe is located.

Following this discussion a motion was made by Council Member Holcomb to submit our request to GEFA for funding up to $500,000.00 to connect our system to CCWSA at East Cherokee Dr. Council Member Stoner seconded the motion. Vote 5 Yeas 0 Nays

6. City Administrator Report
Administration and Finance - A written Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and Account Balances were presented to Mayor Roberts and Council Members for their review. A total balance of all accounts totaled $936,457.00 as of 07/31/2006.

Coventry Healthcare of Georgia has provided notice that the group health insurance rates for upcoming year have increased 25%. We are not likely to find a company to enroll with this year but we are looking.

The finance director is interviewing collection agencies which for a percentage of the collected amount will attempt to collect delinquent water accounts.

City Adm. Wilmarth recommended Mayor and Council Members consider maintaining the current Millage rate of 5.863. Additional information will be sent to Mayor and Council Members before the next meeting for their review.

Roads & Streets
Cartersville Street Project is completed as of today.

Beck Street Project is scheduled to begin tomorrow.
Estimates for the construction of sidewalks along Church & Groover Streets and Old Dawsonville Roads are currently being sought.

A survey and design for the construction of sidewalk on Canton Hwy. beginning at Coy M. Holcomb Street north to the traffic light has been requested. Upon the receipt of the design work, Mayor Roberts will be meeting with DOT Officials to request funding of this project.

A survey and appraisal for the Valley Street right of way being acquired form J. H. Cook investments have been completed. A closing to finalize the purchase of the property has been scheduled for August 14, 2006 at 10:00 AM. Per the agreement between the City and Mr. Cook the city has agreed to pay closing cost, survey and appraisal cost and will also provide water and sewer service to the Cook Property along with street lights and sidewalks. As per the agreement should the City not construct Valley Street within eighteen months the property will revert back to J. H. Cook Investments.

**Water & Sewer**

Our quest to add a new employee to the Public Works Department is continuing. Interviews are being scheduled for next week.

Loss of water for the month ending July 31, 2006 was 28%.

**Streetscapes**

Plans are still under review by DOT.

Georgia Power has stated they will begin their relocation of their utilities in September.

7. **Mayor’s Comments**

At this time Public Works Superintendent JC Cornett was recognized for his 30 year of service to the City of Ball Ground. As Mayor Roberts read a resolution to change Lerol Street to Cornett Way family and friends entered the room to share in this occasion with J. C.

A resolution which will provide free water and sewer service to J.C. and Eldie Cornett as long as they reside in Ball Ground and Ball Ground maintains a water and sewer system was introduced by Mayor Roberts.

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve both of the above referenced resolutions. Motion unanimously approved.

J. C. was also presented with a three night accommodations and tickets to the Bass Pro Shop 500 at the Atlanta International Raceway in October.
Following the meeting everyone was invited to a reception honoring J.C. at the Community Center.

Council Member Homiller asked that the benches in the downtown park be replaced.

City Adm. Wilmarth replied he would do so.

8. Adjourn
There being no further business for Mayor and Council consideration a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn.

The Minutes of this August 10, 2006 Meeting of Council approved this 14th day of September 2006.

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Mayor A. R. Roberts, III   Council Member Frank Homiller

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Council Member John Byrd   Council Member Ashley Holcomb

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Council Member Lee Prettyman  Council Member Andrenia Stoner

Attest: __________________________
City Clerk Karen L. Jordan