



**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council  
City of Ball Ground, Georgia  
Ball Ground City Hall ~ 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES  
February 13, 2025**

**6:30 PM Public Hearing: Amending Zoning Code Division 107-Traffic and Parking Standards.**

**Chris Luly the Planning & Zoning Director called a Public Hearing at 6:33 PM to discuss changes to Zoning Code Division 107-Traffic and Parking Standards.**

**No public comments were made.**

**Chris Luly closed the Public Hearing at 6:44 PM.**

**Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Roberts at 7:00 PM.**

**Council Members Present: Scott Barnes, Vicki Benefield, Annette Homiller, Dennis Nelson, and Kristine Rogers.**

**Staff Present: Ashley Byrd, Donna England, Darlene Pendley, Chris Luly, Eric Wilmarth, Darrell Caudill, Jamie Gianfala, Karla Weaver, and Kaylyn Bush.**

**Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Roberts.**

**Item 3: Approve Agenda**

**Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the agenda with the exception to add item 8. (h) Consider Lowes Hometowns Grant Application Authorization, Removal of Item 8.(d) Consider 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Annexation Case #2024-A-02, and Item 8.(e) Consider 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Zoning Case #2024-R-03.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 4: Appearances**

**James Bence, Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC- Presented the results of the Financial Annual Audit for June 30, 2024.**

**Mr. Bence and his team preformed the audit under the Auditing Standards generally accepted in the United States of America. After the review Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC concluded that the City received an unmodified (“clean”) opinion on the basic financial statements.**

**Item 5: Announcements – City Manager**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>- Council Planning Retreat.**

**Item 6: Approval of January 9, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes**

**Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve the January 9, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes.**

**Item 7: Old Business- None.**

**Item 8: New Business**

**a) Consider 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Derelict Property/Blight Ordinance**

**Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the first reading for the Derelict Property/Blight Ordinance.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**b) Consider 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of changes to Zoning Code Division 107 – Traffic and Parking Standards**

**Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the first reading of the changes to Zoning Code Division 107-Traffic and Parking Standards.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**c) Consider a Resolution in Support of Cherokee County Safe Streets for All**

**Council Member Homiller made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve a Resolution in Support of Cherokee County Safe Streets for All.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**d) Consider adoption of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cherokee County Tax Assessor in regard to HB 581 to establish timelines for submitting estimated property tax millage rates**

**Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve adoption of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cherokee County Tax Assessor in regard to HB 581 to establish timelines for submitting estimated property tax millage rates.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**e) Consider adoption of a resolution acknowledging the City of Ball Ground participation in the PTSD insurance plan for first responders with Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA)**

**Council Member Nelson made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve a Resolution acknowledging the City of Ball Ground participation in the PTSD insurance plan for first responders with Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA).**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**h.) Consider Lowes Hometowns Grant Application Authorization**

**Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve submitting an application to the Lowes Hometowns Grant asking for \$70,000 for the Spray Fountain for Calvin Farmer Park Project.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 9: City Manager Comments**

**Chief Gianfala commended council for the approval of the PTSD Insurance Plan for First Responders. He presented a video to show everyone a glimpse of what a First Responders Day looks like.**

**City Manger Wilmarth Provides Mayor and Council with an overview of Finances. An update regarding the roundabout project was given, stating that it was out for bid. Several of the projects in the city were mentioned such as the 372 Spur & Bypass, Mountain Brooke Sidewalk Extension, Groover Street & Civic Drive Realignment, Northridge Road Extension, Mountain Brooke Connection, and the sewer force main vault and valve replacement is complete.**

**City Manger Wilmarth presented a proposal from the Parks Committee for the City Connection Park. He asked that we replace the slate dust with brick pavers which can be accomplished for \$70,000.00. The city has a grant for \$35,000.00 and would like to use \$25,000.00 of Impact Fees, leaving \$10,000.00 to come out of the Parks line for Special Local Option Sales Tax.**

**Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the proposal to replace the slate dust with brick pavers in the City Connection Park.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 10: Mayor Roberts Comments**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> - Council Planning Retreat.**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> - Arbor Day.**

**Mayor Roberts announced The City of Ball Ground received their 35<sup>th</sup> Tree City acknowledgement. He also stated that The City of Ball Ground is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tree City in Cherokee County.**

**Item 11: Council Comments- Each Council Member provided closing comments.**

**Item 12: Public Comments- None.**

**Item 13: Executive Session (If needed)- None.**

**Item 14: Adjourn**

**Council Member Nelson made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**The Minutes of this meeting were approved at the March 13, 2025, Council Meeting.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**  
**Kaylyn Bush**  
**City Clerk**