



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

**MINUTES
April 10, 2025**

6:30 P.M. Public Hearing: Consideration of a Stream Buffer Variance (Sec. 107-9-a) for 109 Mills Lane Pool Construction.

Planning and Zoning Director Chris Luly called a Public Hearing at 6:33 PM to discuss consideration of a Stream Buffer Variance (Sec. 107-9-a) for 109 Mills Lane Pool Construction.

No public comments were made

Chris Luly closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM.

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Roberts at 7:02 PM.

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

Staff Present: Ashley Byrd, Chris Luly, Chris Stowe, Donna England, David Dean, Darrell Caudill, Eric Wilmarth, Joey Ingram, Jamie Gianfala, Karla Weaver, Kane Stone, Kiley Stone, Kaden Nicholson, Michelle Tanner, Sidney Haynes, 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 Homiller to approve the meeting agenda as proposed.

Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4: Appearances

Recognize the City of Ball Ground Administrative Professionals

Mayor Roberts recognized The City of Ball Ground Administrative Professionals with a Proclamation and a gift on behalf of the city for all their hard work and dedication to providing outstanding customer service and managing the office.

Recognize the City of Ball Ground Water Department Team

Mayor Roberts recognized The City of Ball Ground Water Department with a Proclamation and a gift on behalf of the city for their commitment and dedication to managing the city's water system and community.

Item 5: Announcements – City Manager

**April 23- Touch-A-Truck
May 1- Budget Hearing at 5:30 PM
May 10- Annual Ball Ground Garden Club Plant Sale
May 24- Guardians of the Jukebox Concert**

Item 6: Approval of March 13, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve the March 13, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes.

Item 7: Old Business- None.

Item 8: New Business

a. Consider Proclamation Recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor Roberts read and presented a Proclamation to Michelle Meek with the Children's Safe Haven Organization to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

b. Consider Proclamation Recognizing April as Safe Digging Month

Mayor Roberts read and presented a Proclamation to Brandon Duncan with Cherokee County SPLOST Department to recognize April as Safe Digging Month.

c. Consider Proclamation Recognizing April 20-26, 2025, as Volunteer Appreciation Week

Mayor Roberts read a proclamation to recognize April 20-26, 2025, as Volunteer Appreciation Week in Ball Ground.

d. Consider Proclamation Recognizing April 20-26, 2025, as Garden Week in Georgia

Mayor Roberts read and presented a Proclamation to The Ball Ground Garden Club to recognize April 20-26, 2025, as Garden Week in Georgia.

e. Consider First Reading of Annexation Ordinance-Wanda Anderson (Lusk)-Case 2024-A-02

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the First Reading of Annexation Ordinance-Wanda Anderson (Lusk)-Case 2024-A-02.

Motion unanimously approved.

f. Consider First Reading of Rezoning Ordinance-Wanda Anderson (Lusk)-Case 2024-R-03

Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the First Reading of Rezoning Ordinance-Wanda Anderson (Lusk)-Case 2024-R-03

Motion unanimously approved.

- g. Consider First Reading of Annexation Ordinance-Two Little Hands Farm (Briggs)- Case 2024-A-03**

Council Member Nelson made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the First Reading of Annexation Ordinance-Two Little Hands Farm (Briggs)- Case 2024-A-03.

Motion approved with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Homiller abstained from voting.

- h. Consider First Reading of Rezoning Ordinance-Two Little Hands Farm (Briggs)- Case 2024-R-04**

Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the First Reading of Rezoning Ordinance-Two Little Hands Farm (Briggs)- Case 2024-R-04.

Motion approved with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Homiller abstained from voting.

- i. Consider Final Reading of a Resolution to Provide a Stream Buffer Variance for 109 Mills Lane (McHugh)- Case 2025-V-01**

Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the Final Reading of a Resolution to Provide a Stream Buffer Variance for 109 Mills Lane (McHugh)- Case 2025-V-01.

Motion approved with a vote of 3-2

Council Members Benefield, Rogers, and Nelson voted in favor.

Council Members Homiller and Barnes voted in opposition.

- j. Consider the First Reading of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget**

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the First Reading of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget.

Motion unanimously approved.

- k. Consider the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Subpart A. – General Ordinances; Chapter 4. – Alcohol Beverages; Article III.- Open Container Alcohol District to Establish New Times of Regulation**

Council Member Benefield made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Subpart A. – General Ordinances; Chapter 4. – Alcohol Beverages; Article III.- Open Container Alcohol District to Establish New Times of Regulation.

Motion unanimously approved.

- l. Consider Complaint for Abatement of Nuisance 135 Lowry Street**

Council Member Benefield made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the Complaint for Abatement of Nuisance 135 Lowry Street.

Motion unanimously approved.

m. Consider Complaint for Abatement of Nuisance 547 Old Canton Road

Council Member Nelson made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the Complaint for Abatement of Nuisance 547 Old Canton Road.

Motion unanimously approved.

Item 9: Chief of Police Report

Chief Gianfala was pleased to report there were no incidents from the BBQ & Brews event on Saturday April 5, 2025. He stated there would be more police presence as the weather warms up due to more activity in the city which can result in higher crime rates. Chief Gianfala wanted to remind everyone to lock up items of value at night as well as always locking your cars.

Item 10: City Manager Comments

City Manager Wilmarth provided Mayor Roberts and the City Council with an overview of the Finances. The city got the House Bill 581 estimate back from the Tax Assessor's office. We are looking at a 3% inflationary growth in Ball Ground this year which is very close margins. City staff need a consensus from City Council to not respond to the Assessor and allow them to place last year's Milage Rate on the Tax Assessment notice.

City Manager Wilmarth gave an update on a few capital projects including the Roundabout Bid which has been awarded to Wilson Construction in the amount of \$3,249,045.90. The entirety of Ball Ground obligation on the project has been grant funded. The 372 Spur/ Truck Bypass hosted Senator Warnock's team to allow them to get a view of what we are dealing with. The Environmental Resources surveys have been completed and submitted to GDOT for review. We hope to have validation of concept by August of 2025 and be able to host an open house in early 2026 to allow people to see the map layout. The Mountain Brook sidewalk extension is at 55% completion and the second water line conflict has been resolved. He gave updates on multiple other projects throughout the city.

Item 11: Mayor Roberts- None.

Item 12: Council Comments- Each Council Member provided closing comments.

Item 13: Public Comments

Ball Ground Garden Club President, Mary Hrovatic, presented Mayor Roberts and Council with a donation to the Parks and Rec Department to help contribute towards future projects. She then told Mayor Roberts and Council that the Ball Ground Garden Club will be donating annually to the Parks and Rec Department.

Ball Ground Water Department Head, David Dean, Thanked Mayor Roberts and City Council for their graciousness in allowing his department to continue to grow and showing them support.

Item 14: Executive Session

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to go into Executive Session at 8:04 PM to consult with legal counsel pertaining a personnel matter. (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (b) (2))

Motion approved with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Nelson abstained from voting and excused himself from the Executive Session.

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:05 PM.

Motion approved with a vote of 4-0.

Item 15: Adjourn

Council Member Benefield made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Motion approved with a vote of 4-0.

The minutes of this meeting were approved at the May 8, 2025, meeting of the Mayor and City Council.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Kaylyn Bush
City Clerk**