



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

**MINUTES
April 13, 2023**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Rick Roberts

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

Staff Present: City Attorney Darrell Caudill, City Manager Eric Wilmarth, Police Chief Bryon Reeves, Finance Director Donna England, City Planner Chris Luly, and City Clerk Karen L. Jordan

Recognize Veteran of the Month – Glenn Haynes

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance led by Glenn Haynes, Veteran of the Month.

Item 3: Approve Agenda

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments - None

Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items

**April 26 - Georgia Cities Week Touch-A-Truck Event
April 29 - GA Swarm Event in Calvin Farmer Park
May 13 - Ball Ground Garden Club Annual Plant Sale
May 20 - BBQ & Brews in City Park**

Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2023

Council Member Nelson put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2023 City Council Meeting as presented in writing by the City Clerk.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 7: Old Business

a) Consider Second Reading of Zoning Ordinance

Chris Luly presented the proposed amendments to the city's current zoning ordinance for council consideration. He stated three public hearings were properly advertised and held to solicit comments. He asked if there were any additional comments to be made. No comments received.

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the proposed amendments as submitted.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 8: New Business

a) Consider First Reading of 2023-2024 FY Operating Budget

The following 2023-2024 FY Budget was presented to council for consideration.

In the General Operating Fund Budget, the projected total revenue of \$2,108,848.00. This is an increase of 20% over the previous year.

SPLOST is anticipating collecting \$738,100.00 in revenue based on the receipts from the first six months of 2023.

The Water and Sewage Budget projected revenue of \$2,275,700.00.

The budget proposes a rate increase across all tiers of our rate structure of .50 cents per one-thousand gallons of water consumption and .50 cents per one thousand gallons of sewer discharge. This will result in a monthly increase of \$4.00 for the average customer.

Storm Water Utility Fund expects revenue of \$59,200.00 for the coming year.

Solid Waste Fund anticipates the collection of \$348,000.00 in revenue for the coming year. This is an increase in revenue of approximately 16% from the previous year.

The total budget reflects an 18% increase over the previous FY 2023/2024 Budget.

Budget totals are as follows:

General Fund	\$2,108,848.00
Fire District Tax	\$ 517,753.00
SPLOST	\$ 738,100.00
Water/Sewer	\$2,275,700.00
Storm Water	\$ 49,200.00
<u>Solid Waste</u>	<u>\$ 348,000.00</u>
Total	\$6,047,601.00

Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the first reading of the 2023-2024 FY Budget as presented.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

b) Consider Resolution Recertification of City of Ethics

Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve A Resolution to be submitted to the Georgia Municipal Association expressing the desire of the City of Ball Ground to be recertified as a City of Ethics.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- c) **Consider Resolution Recognizing April 23-29, 2023 as Georgia Cities Week**
Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve A Resolution designating April 23-29 as Georgia Cities Week in the City of Ball Ground.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- d) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing April 16-22, 2023 as Georgia Garden Week**
Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve A Proclamation designating the week of April 16-22, 2023 as Garden Week in Georgia.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- e) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing June 4-10, 2023 as National Garden Week in Georgia**

Council Member Homiller put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve A Proclamation designating June 4-10, 2023 as National Garden Week in Ball Ground.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- f) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing April as Safe Digging Month**

Council Member Barnes put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve A Proclamation proclaiming April 2023 as Safe Digging Month in Ball Ground.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- g) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve A Proclamation proclaiming April 2023 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Ball Ground.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- h) **Consider Adoption of City Slogan: Historic Past – Bright Future**

Council Member Rogers thought it would be nice if the city had a slogan. After putting much thought into the historic past of the city and the progress the city has made over the years and continues to make the slogan Historic Past – Bright Future was born.

Mayor Roberts stated it is a good slogan and can be used in many ways.

City Manager Wilmarth stated we will apply for the copyright once council approves it.

Council Member Homiller put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes, to adopt the slogan Historic Past – Bright Future.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 9: City Manager Comments

City Manager Wilmarth provided Council Members with an unaudited report of account balances, and statement of revenue and expenditures for the month ended March 31, 2023. The report showed cash on deposit totaled \$2,740,726.74.

City Manager Wilmarth presented an update on various projects throughout the city.

Chief Reeves presented a written report of the Police Department's activities for the month ended March 31, 2023.

Item 10: Mayor Roberts

Mayor Roberts proposed discussing appointments to a couple of committees at the May Work Session. Mayor Roberts stated he would like to reorganize the Historic Preservation Committee. A committee was appointed and began working prior to the start of COVID, but later stopped because of the pandemic.

The second committee for consideration is the Economic Development Committee. The committee would be tasked with putting together a future development plan for the core city and to encourage development so downtown continues to thrive.

Item 11: Council Comments

Council Member Barnes asked for council to discuss participating in the Keep Cherokee Beautiful Program at the May Work Session.

Council Member Benefield encouraged everyone to consider purchasing a brick for the Veterans Memorial.

Council Member Nelson stated that we are still seeking nominations for Veteran of the Month. Applications can be found on the city website.

Item 12: Public Comments

Item 13: Executive Session (If Needed)

Item 14: Adjourn

There being no further business for consideration Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to adjourn.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

The minutes of this April 13, 2023 approved unanimously at the May 11, 2023 City Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:
Karen L Jordan
City Clerk