



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

**MINUTES
December 14, 2023**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Rick Roberts

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

Council Member Dennis Nelson was absent.

Staff Present: Chris Luly, Chief Bryon Reeves, Darrell Caudill, Eric Wilmarth and Karen L. Jordan

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Approve Agenda

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

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments

Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items

City Hall will be closed December 25 & 26

Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes of the November 9, 2023 Council Meeting

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023 Council Meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 7: Old Business - None

Item 8: New Business

- a) **Consider Georgia Power Distribution Easement**
- b) **Consider Appointment to Impact Fee Advisory Board**

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the appointment of Gloria Barko-Thomas and Evelyn Burgos Calhoun to the Impact Fee Advisory Committee.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

c) Consider Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement

Council Member Rogers put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to adopt An Ordinance to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Ball Ground, Georgia, in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Adoption Agreement, any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Basic Plan Document, and the GMEBS Trust Agreement. When accepted by the authorized officers of the City and GMEBS, the foregoing shall constitute a Contract between the City and GMEBS, all as authorized and provided by O.C.G.A. § 47-5-1 et seq.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 9: City Manager Comments

Chief Reeves provided the Mayor and City Council with a written and oral report of the department's activities for the month ended November 30, 2023.

City Manager Wilmarth presented the mayor and council with an unaudited report of account balances and statement of revenue and expenditures for the month ended November 30, 2023. The report showed cash on deposit totaling \$3,253,387.83.

City Manager Wilmarth provided the mayor and council with updates regarding ongoing projects in the city. Several of the projects mentioned was the renovation of the playground in Calvin Farmer Park, Roberts Lake Trail, Downtown Pocket Park, the replacement of the well pump which will increase the amount of water produced per minute, upgrade the downtown crosswalk signals and the progress of the round-a-bout at Howell Bridge and Hwy 5.

Council Member Rogers put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve up to \$55,000.00 to fund sidewalk improvements beginning at Grogan Street and ending at the intersection of Cartersville Street and Canton Hwy/SR Hwy 5.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 10: Mayor Roberts

Mayor Roberts ended the meeting to celebrate the City's 140th Anniversary. The City was chartered by the Georgia Legislature in September 1883. Everyone enjoyed cake and coffee to commemorate the special occasion.

Item 11: Council Comments

Council Members wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Item 12: Public Comments

Dennis Holt of 343 Old Canton addressed the mayor and council on behalf of the Tatum Circle residents. He presented a petition written by Bo Jones requesting the council reinstate and replace a one-way sign on Tatum Circle with direction running from Strippling Street to Old Canton Road. Tatum Circle is currently only eight feet wide at it narrowest and 10 feet is the widest. It is designated as a 10

feet alley. As the residents understand based on individual plats, no actual right-of-way exist. The street has never been able to accommodate two-way traffic without one of the vehicles pulling to the side to allow the other to pass while damaging property owners' yards. It was also requested that a sign saying no through traffic or likewise according to MUTC Standards. Mr. Holt requested the council tentatively approve his request until additional signatures on the petition could be obtained.

Mayor Roberts asked if the ones that had not signed the petition had been made aware of this request. Mr. Holt answered, yes. They have given their verbal approval but have not yet signed the petition.

Council Member Benefield stated she would like the council to discuss this request further at a future work session.

Mayor Roberts instructed Mr. Holt to present the petition to City Manager Wilmarth once the petition was signed by all the residents and the council would consider the request. No action taken.

Item 14: Executive Session (If Needed)

Item 15: Adjourn

Mayor Roberts closed out the meeting by inviting everyone to have cake and coffee to commemorate the City's 140th Anniversary. He stated that we are the second oldest city in Cherokee County. We also share the birthday year with Reinhardt University.

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

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted by;

Karen L. Jordan

City Clerk