



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

**MINUTES  
December 12, 2024**

**Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Rick Roberts**

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

**Staff Present: Donna England, Chris Luly, Whit Frost, Jamie Gianfala, Eric Wilmarth, Karen Jordan and Kaylyn Bush**

**Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item 3: Approve Meeting Agenda**

**Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the agenda with the following amendments: Omit Items 8 (b) & 8 (c). Add the following item: Pam Helton representing the Georgia Municipal Association to speak under Item 4: Appearances and add Item 8 (b) Resolution to recognize retiring City Clerk Karen Jordan.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments**

**Ms. Pam Helton representing the Georgia Municipal Association presented City Clerk Karen Jordan with the Georgia Municipal Association Lifetime Service Award in appreciation for her 39 Years of dedicated service to the City of Ball Ground.**

**Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items**

**City Hall will be closed on December 24 & 25 and on January 1  
City Council Work Session will be held on January 2, 2025**

**Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2024**

**Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2024, meeting with the corrections of two typographical errors. The City Clerk stated the corrections had been made once brought to her attention by Council Member Homiller.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 7: Old Business - None**

**Item 8: New Business**

**a) Consider the Appointment of Deputy City Clerk**

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to appoint Kaylyn Bush as the Deputy City Clerk.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- b) Mayor Roberts presented retiring City Clerk Karen Jordan with a Resolution for having served with dedication, distinction and pride in her role as City Clerk for the City of Ball Ground for the past 39 years.

Mayor Roberts and Council Members extended their heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

#### Item 9: City Manager Comments

Chief Gianfala presented a monthly report of the department's activities for the month of November.

Chief Gianfala reported that Sheriff Frank Reynolds recently swore in his officers as deputies. He stated that this reinforces the partnership between the department and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office to better serve the citizens within the city and aid deputies outside of the city.

Chief Gianfala further reported that the Christmas Parade was a huge success thanks in part to the many volunteers, the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, Fire and EMS, and others who assisted with traffic and crowd control.

City Manager Wilmarth presented the mayor and council with an unaudited report of account balances and a statement of revenue and expenditure for the month ended November 30, 2024.

Round-A-Bout update: The project plans have been approved by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The city should be able to pick up an encroachment permit next Tuesday or Wednesday. The next step would be to start the process for acceptance of bids for construction sometime in January or February. The notice to proceed with appraisals of certain properties that could be condemned has been issued.

372 Ball Ground Bypass – Despite dealing with several obstacles that could jeopardize this project efforts to construct the bypass continue.

Mountain Brooke Sidewalk Project - It is anticipated that the bid to construct the sidewalk will be awarded to DAF Concrete on December 17, 2024. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of July 2025.

Negotiations continue with the property owner to add additional parking for the Downtown. The estimated cost to repave the property is \$130,000. The city will act as its own contractor on this project.

A Standalone Water and Sewage Plan is currently under development. A first draft of the plan related to PFAS and PFOS is due to the State by the end of February 2025. According to the US Environmental Protection Division Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. Currently the EPD is monitoring this matter and ways to address the issue.

**Item 10: Mayor Roberts announced the annual Council Planning Retreat has been scheduled for March 1, 2025. The location has not yet been determined.**

**Mayor Roberts presented City Clerk Karen Jordan with a gift in the form of a check for her years of service to the City of Ball Ground.**

**Item 11: Council Comments**

**Council Members thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and wished everyone a Very Merry Christmas. The council also thanked City Clerk Karen Jordan for her 39-plus years of service to the city and wished her a happy retirement.**

**Council Member Barnes commented on how great the downtown Christmas decorations were and stated he had received many good comments from others.**

**Item 12: Public Comments**

**Item 13: Executive Session - None**

**Item 14: Adjourn**

**There being no further business for consideration, Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson, to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**The minutes of this meeting were approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2025.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Karen L. Jordan  
City Clerk**