



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

**Minutes
February 8, 2024**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Roberts.

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

Staff Present: Chris Luly, Donna England, Bryon Reeves, Darrell Caudill, Eric Wilmarth and Karen Jordan

- **Recognize Veteran of the Month – Council Member Dennis Nelson recognized Brian Robertson as Veteran of the Month. A proclamation was presented to Mr. Robertson along with a challenge coin for his service.**

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance led by Veteran of the Month, Mr. Brian Robertson.

Item 3: Approve Agenda

Council Member Homiller put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson, to approve the meeting agenda as proposed.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 4: Appearances - None

Item 5: Announcements – City Manager

February 16	Arbor Day Tree Planting
March 2	City Council Planning Retreat
April 6	BBQ & Brews

Item 6: Approval of January 11, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024 City Council Meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 7: Old Business

a) Consider Second Reading of Metro District Model Stormwater Ordinance

Council Member Homiller put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers, to approve the second reading of this ordinance as proposed.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- b) **Consider Second Reading of Amendment to Stream Buffer Ordinance Subpart B-Land Development Sec. 107-6(a). - Administrative appeal and judicial review & Sec. 107-9(b)(1&2). - Land development requirements**

Council Member Nelson put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller, to approve the second reading of this ordinance as proposed.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- c) **Consider Second Reading of An Amendment to An Ordinance Subpart B. – Land Development: Section 108.2 Administrative Variances**

Council Member Barnes put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers, to approve the second reading of this ordinance as proposed.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- d) **Consider Second Reading of An Amendment to An Ordinance Subpart B. – Land Development: Appendix A – Zoning Division 109.3 Board of Zoning Appeals Powers and Duties**

Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller, to approve the second reading of the ordinance as proposed.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 8: New Business

- a) **Consider Appointments to Board of Zoning Appeals: John Hermann, and Jimmy Gale**

Council Member Barnes put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers, to approve the appointment of John Hermann and Jimmy Gale to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- b) **Consider Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS).**

Council Member Nelson put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to enter into An Agreement between the City of Ball Ground and execute the Agreement, hereinafter called “Participating Parties” and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) for purposes of this Agreement as outlined in the Agreement.

The Agreement, once executed, is valid until March 1, 2027. The agreement of the Participating Parties to extend the term of this agreement at any time during the last year of its original term or the last year of any subsequent four-year term shall extend the term of this agreement for four years. Each four-year extension shall constitute a separate agreement.

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 January 31, 2024.

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 January 31, 2024.

City Manager Wilmarth provided the mayor and council with updates regarding ongoing projects in the city. Projects mentioned were:

- **Conflicts that caused delays in the proposed roundabout project at the intersection of SR 5 and Howell Bridge Road have been resolved. A new concept plan has been sent to the Georgia Department of Transportation for review. Once GDOT has approved the concept plan it will be returned to Cherokee County to begin the next step of the project.**

It is anticipated that at the March meeting of The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners a decision will be made on which engineering firm will be awarded the notice to proceed with designing the SR 372 Bypass.

- **Four RFP'S were received and are now under review for solid waste services. The committee will make a final recommendation to the City Council at the March meeting.**
- **Renovation of the downtown pocket park continues. Shade Sails are soon to be installed.**
- **Public Comments received from the online survey and two public open houses are being reviewed and will be used to draft the Calvin Farmer Park Master Plan for mayor and council consideration.**

Item 10: Mayor Roberts Comments

Mayor Roberts invited the public to attend the Arbor Day Tree Planting to be held on the grounds of City Hall Friday, February 16 at 10:00AM.

Item 11: Council Comments

Council Member Homiller, Council Member Barnes and Mayor Roberts recently attended the Cities United Summit Conference in Atlanta where the City was recognized as a City of Civility.

Item 12: Public Comments

Item 13: Executive Session

Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to adjourn into executive session according to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(6).

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene back into regular session.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 14: Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted by

**Karen L. Jordan
City Clerk**