



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

**MINUTES
January 9, 2025**

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: Michelle Tanner, Chris Luly, Donna England, Jamie Gianfala, Darrell Caudill, Eric Wilmarth, and Kaylyn Bush.

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Roberts

Item 3: Approve Agenda

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

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 4: Appearances

Joe Davis who resides near the Ball Ground City Limits, addressed the Council concerning the recycling program. He stated that the service has not been on a consistent schedule for multiple weeks and when the service is scheduled the truck that comes is never big enough for all the recyclables then causing the service to end earlier than scheduled. Mr. Davis preferred it when curbside recycle was offered to City residents and he would like for the service to be an option again.

Mayor Roberts stated that he too has noticed the inconsistency with the recycle program schedule. He stated that this is an issue that the Council and the City Manager would discuss at the retreat on March 1st. It was stated that an additional cost of \$14.00 a month would be added for those who would like to have curbside recycling if we reached the 50% requirement.

Council Member Barnes recommended using Pickens County Recycle Center during the weeks that recycling is not offered. He stated that he personally uses the facilities and had been incredibly pleased. Council Member Barnes provided the address of the Pickens County Recycle Center to Mr. Davis.

Item 5: Announcements – City Manager

- **City Hall will be closed on January 10th due to inclement weather.**
- **City hall will be closed on January 20th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**
- **The recycling on January 11th will be cancelled due to inclement weather.**

Item 6: Approval of December 12, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Homiller made a motion, Second by Council Member Barnes to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting submitted in writing by the City Clerk.

Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7: Old Business - None

Item 8: New Business

a) Consider Appointment of City Clerk

Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the appointment of Kaylyn Bush as City Clerk.

Motion unanimously approved.

b) Consider the Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller, to approve the appointment of Dennis Nelson as Mayor Pro Tem for the ensuing year.

Motion unanimously approved.

c) Consider the Appointment of 2025 Department Heads, Committees and Board Members

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve Committees and Board Members with the acceptance of removing Council Member Homiller from the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Finance, Insurance, and Personnel

**Annette Homiller- Chair
Kristine Rogers
Donna England**

Parks and Recreation

**Scott Barnes- Chair
Vicki Benefield
Ashley Byrd
Kaylyn Bush**

Roads, Streets, and Sidewalks

**Vicki Benefield- Chair
Annette Homiller
Chris Luly**

Water, Sewer, and Sanitation

**Dennis Nelson- Chair
Scott Barnes
Eric Wilmarth**

Public Safety

**Kristine Rogers- Chair
Dennis Nelson
Jamie Gianfala**

Motion unanimously approved.

Council Member Nelson made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve appointment of Annette Homiller to serve on the Historic Preservation Committee.

Motion unanimously approved.

Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the appointment of Michelle Tanner as Deputy Court Clerk for the ensuing year.

Motion unanimously approved.

d) Reaffirm Check Signers for any/all banking/checking accounts

Council Member Rogers made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approved appointment of Mayor Roberts, Director of Planning and Zoning Chris Luly, Seargent Matt Young, and City Manger Eric Wilmarth as check signers for the ensuing year. City Manager Wilmarth asked to change the \$500.00 check limit to \$1,000.00 to require two signatures by any two appointed and go into effect when a new check order is placed.

Motion unanimously approved.

e) Consider Establishing and Fixing Qualifying Fees for Municipal Elections per O.C.G.A. §21-2-131(1)(a) (Mayor - \$108.00) (City Council - \$35.00)

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to establish the qualifying fee of \$108.00 for the Office of Mayor and \$35.00 for the Office of Council Member.

Motion unanimously approved.

f) Consider Arbor Day Proclamation (February 21, 2025)

Council Member Homiller made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson proclaiming February 21, 2025, as Arbor Day in the City of Ball Ground.

Motion unanimously approved.

Mayor Roberts stated this is the 36th year of Ball Ground being a Tree City. A tree planting will take place on February 21st at a place and time to be decided.

g) Consider Adoption of 2025 Fee Schedule

Council Member Barnes made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve adoption of the 2025 Fee Schedule.

Motion unanimously approved.

h) Consider Adoption of Zoning Map

Council Member Benefield made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the Adoption of the Zoning Map.

Motion unanimously approved.

- i) Consider a Resolution of Support for Cherokee County's Application for State Road & Tollway Authority Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Funding**

Council Member Nelson made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the Resolution of Support for Cherokee County's Application for State Road & Tollway Authority Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Fund.

Motion unanimously approved.

Item 9: City Manager Comments

Chief Gianfala praised his team as they acted quickly and successfully to an emergency call regarding two lost young boys who were safely returned home. The Chief made a verbal introduction to our newest Officer Clifford Garret.

City Manager Wilmarth provided the Mayor and Council with an overview of the Finances. An update was given on the roundabout stating the plans have been approved. Several of the projects in the city were mentioned such as the 372 Spur & Bypass, Mountain Brooke Sidewalk Extension, Groover Street & Civic Drive Realignment. City Manager Wilmarth stated the Downtown Parking Lot assessment has been completed and the next steps will be to include Legal Counsel and to get a lease in place.

City Manager Wilmarth congratulated Downtown Manager Ashley Byrd and Water Department staff on successfully decorating downtown for the Winter holiday season.

Item 10: Mayor Roberts Comments

Mayor Roberts suggested the city set up a Downtown Economic Development Committee:

**Vicki Benefield- Chair
Scott Barnes
Ashley Byrd
Chris Luly**

Council Member Benefield made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the setup of the Downtown Economic Development Committee.

Motion unanimously approved.

Item 11: Council Comments- Each Council Member Provided closing comments.

Item 12: Public Comments- None

Item 13: Executive Session (If needed)- None

Item 14: Adjourn

With no further business for Council to consider Council Member Homiller made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM.

The Minutes of this meeting will be considered for approval at the February 13, 2025 Council Meeting.

**Respectfully submitted by:
Kaylyn A. Bush, City Clerk**