



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

**MINUTES  
March 9, 2023**

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

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

**Council Member Annette Homiller absent**

**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 - Council Member Nelson introduced Mr. George Westbrook, Senior Chief Petty Officer, US Navy, Retired as Veteran of the Month.**

**Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. George Westbrook, Veteran of the Month**

**Item 3: Approve Agenda**

**Council Member Nelson put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the agenda with the following amendment: Remove Item 8 (f).**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments**

**Kali Hoffman of 143 Mount Moriah Road expressed her concerns of no crosswalk at the intersection of Lantern Walk Drive and Ball Ground Hwy. She asked that Council Members to reconsider some sort of traffic control at the intersection.**

**Mayor Roberts thanked Ms. Hofman for her comments. He stated that unfortunately the Georgia Department of Transportation has been difficult in addressing the city's request for a crosswalk at that location. Mayor Roberts stated that he understands the importance and would continue efforts with GDOT to improve the intersection.**

**Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items**

**April 8 – BBQ & Brews**

**April 29 – Georgia Swarm Lacrosse Team Game & Demonstration**

**May 13- Ball Garden Club Plant Sale**

**Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: February 2, 2023 Work Session  
February 9, 2023 City Council Meeting**

**Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the minutes as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 7: Old Business - None**

**Item 8: New Business**

- a) **Consider First Reading of Amendments to The City's Official Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map**

Chris Luly introduced the following amendments to the city's current zoning ordinance for council consideration. He stated there are two public hearings scheduled for April 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM and on April 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM to solicit public comments for the proposed amendments. A public hearing was held prior to the meeting tonight for public comments.

**Changes Made to Individual Districts**

- Created language for zoning districts we have on the map but not in the code
  - Created a GC (General Commercial) district
  - Created an RZL (Residential Zero Lot Line) district
- Modified the language of existing zoning districts
  - Modified TND (Traditional Neighborhood Development) district
  - Modified HO (Ball Ground Highway Overlay) district
  - Modified RM4 to accommodate "For Rent" developments
- Eliminated Zoning Districts from the map and text
  - Eliminated the OIT and LRO districts
  - Eliminated the Valley Overlay District
- Created new zoning districts
  - CC-C, CC-T and CC-R districts
  - Created an HI (Heavy Industrial) district

**Other Changes Made to Zoning Code**

- Created a Permitted Land Use Table
- Modified the Development Standards Table
- Modified the Landscape Buffer Table
- Created "For Sale" and "For Rent" designations

**Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve the above stated amendments.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

- b) **Consider Resolution to Close Bank Account / Transfer Funds**

Mayor Roberts asked Council Member to consider approval to close a bank account that was opened for the Downtown Development Authority. Mayor Roberts stated it was recently discovered that the resolution to create the authority was never filed with the property authorities, therefore the authority ceased to exist.

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to close any and all financial accounts in the name of the Ball Ground Downtown Development Authority.

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**c) Consider Establishment of City Flower**

**Council Member Benefield proposed the City designate the Daffodil Flower as the official flower of the City. She stated that while preparing for Arbor Day the thought occurred to her that it would be nice if the city had a designated flower, tree and bird. She spoke with members of the Ball Ground Garden Club, and they suggested we consider the Daffodil.**

**Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to designate the Daffodil as the official flower of the city.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**d) Consider Establishment of City Tree**

**Council Member Benefield proposed the City designate the Crepe Myrtle as the official tree of the City. The Crepe Myrtle is the premier summer-flowering tree of the South. They will provide a lot of color and beauty to the City. The Crepe Myrtle was also recommended by the Garden Club.**

**Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to designate the Crepe Myrtle as the official tree of the City.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**e) Consider Establishment of City Bird**

**Council Member Benefield proposed the City designate the Blue Bird as the official bird of the City.**

**Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to designate the Blue Bird as the official bird of the City.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**f) Item Removed**

**g) Consider Extension of the Temporary Moratorium on the Acceptance of any Applications of Zoning Petitions, Preliminary Pats/Concept Plans or Building Permits and Land Disturbance Permits for Development Within the Valley Overlay District.**

**A Resolution to extend a temporary moratorium on the acceptance of any application of zoning petitions, preliminary plats/concept plans or building permits and land disturbance permits for development within the Valley Overlay District for thirty days was presented to council members for consideration.**

**Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barns To approve the resolution to extend a temporary moratorium on the acceptance of any application of zoning petitions, preliminary plats/concept plans or building permits and land disturbance permits for development within the Valley Overlay District for thirty days.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 9: City Manager Report**

City Manager Wilmarth provided Council Members with an unaudited report of account balances, and statement of revenue and expenditures for the month ended February 28, 2023. The report showed cash on deposit totaled \$2,728,513.91.

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 of January 2023.

**Item 10: Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Roberts spoke on the recent planning retreat. He stated it was a very good session and he was very impressed with the plans discussed that will benefit the city going forward.

Mayor Roberts reported that Council Members Barnes and Homiller recently attended the Newly Elected Officials Training. Council Member Barnes stated he found the training to be very rewarding. It gives you a very high level of things you don't think about and to learn about from human resources to public works to ethics. Council Member Barnes commented on how proud he is of the City of Ball Ground. He stated that a lot of people paid he and Annettee a lot of respect for the things Ball Ground has done and for the way council works together. He further stated he has been attending council meetings for 20 plus years and has never seen the council in the news for dissension. He went on to say he was very proud of Ball Ground and the work Eric does along with the public works and police departments.

Mayor Roberts stated as newly elected officials the training that you receive with other cities throughout the state you will realize how advanced Ball Ground is as compared to other cities similar to size. It's very important for our elected officials to stay involved with training.

**Item 11: Council Members Comments thanked everyone for coming and wished all a Happy Easter.**

**Item 12: Adjourn**

There being no further business for consideration, Council Member Nelson put fort a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

The minutes of this March 9<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting approved this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2023.

**Karen L. Jordan  
City Clerk**