



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

**MINUTES  
May 19, 2022**

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

**Council Members Present:** Vicki Benefield, Dennis Nelson, Lee Prettyman, Kristine Rogers, Andrenia Stoner

**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

**Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item 3: Approve Agenda**

**Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to amend the agenda by adding Item 8 (g).  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 4: Appearances - None**

**Item 5: Announcements**

**May 21 – The Ball Ground Garden Club Annual Plant Sale  
May 30 – City Hall will be closed in observance of Memorial Day  
June 25 – Annual Fire Works Display & Concert in the Park**

**Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: April 7, 2022 Work Session  
April 14, 2022 Council Meeting**

**Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield, to approve the minutes of the April 7 and April 15 meetings as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 7: Old Business**

**a) Consider Second Reading of 2022-2023 FY Budget  
Mayor Roberts noted that the budget had been properly advertised, and a public hearing was held on April 7, 2022, with only staff in attendance. No public comments received.**

**Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Prettyman, to approve the FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget as submitted.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 8: New Business**

- a) **Consider First Reading of Alcohol License – Applicant: Kevin Todd Martin on behalf of The Pig & Pearl LLC/DBA Dot’s Fine Wine & Craft 280 Gilmer Ferry Rd.**

**Council Member Nelson put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the first reading of the application for an alcohol license as submitted by Kevin Todd Martin for 280 Gilmer Ferry Road.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

- b) **Consider entering into a land exchange agreement with Mr. Freddy Bracket**

**City Manager Wilmarth stated per the proposed agreement the City would give 1,796 square feet of City property valued at \$8,713 to Fred Bracket, and in exchange would receive 1,800 square feet of property valued at \$8,712 from Mr. Bracket. The appraisal to determine property values was performed by Shirley Fountain and a full copy of the report, dated March 9, 2022, is on file. This exchange would square up the property lines.**

**Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the land exchange and to authorize City Manager Wilmarth to execute the closing documents.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

- c) **Consider First Reading of Annexation Application 2022-A01  
Applicant: Davia Group, LLC Location TINs: 94N06 009, 03N07 059 and 94N06 011 • Addresses: 120 Roberts Lake Road and 110 Gazaway Lane**

**Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the application as submitted.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

- d) **Consider Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Between City of Ball Ground and Cherokee County for Transportation Facility Improvement**

**Council Member Nelson put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Stoner to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Ball Ground and Cherokee County for transportation facility improvements as specified in the agreement.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

- e) **Consider Drought Policy**

**City Manager Wilmarth stated The City of Ball Ground is required to adhere to the rules and regulations imposed by Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (GaEPD) for removing, treating, and distributing water taken from the Crystalline Aquifer. These restrictions include adhering to limits of the permit for withdrawal issued by GaEPD. The City will be required to follow the policy in addition to more stringent requirements that may be issued by GaEPD. In the policy the City of Ball Ground will address each of the three GaEPD Drought Response Levels**

**Council Member Stoner put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the policy as submitted.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**f) Consider An Ordinance to amend and restate the City Retirement Plan**

City Manager Wilmarth presented An Ordinance for consideration to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Adoption Agreement, any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Master Plan Document, and the GMEBS Trust Agreement. When accepted by the authorized officers of the City and GMEBS, the forgoing shall constitute a Contract between the City and GMEBS, al as authorized and provided by O.C.G.A. §47-5-1 et seq.

Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the first reading of this ordinance as presented.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.

**g) Consider a proposed project by the Downtown Development Authority**

Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to table.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.

**Item 9: City Manager Report**

- Financial Report for period ended April 30, 2022
- Update on Proposed crosswalk at intersection of Lantern Walk Dr. & Hwy 5 and Old Dawsonville Road improvement project, Traffic Study on intersections around the City.
- Update on Veterans Memorial
- Parks & Recreation
- Water System
- Planning and Zoning update
- Chief Reeves presented a written report of the department's activity for the month of April. Chief Reeves stated the department recently hired a new officer and is in the process of hiring one more. The department will then have a total of six officers.

**Item 10: Mayor Roberts Comments**

Mayor Roberts asked Chris Luly to email council members a draft of the Growth Boundary Agreement for review. Mayor Roberts stated the previous agreement had expired.

**Item 11: Council Comments**

**Item 12: Public Comments**

**Item 13: Executive Session (If Needed)**

**Item 14: Adjourn**

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

The minutes of this May 19, 2022 City Council Meeting approved this 9<sup>th</sup> Day of June, 2022.