



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

**MINUTES  
May 11, 2023**

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

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

**Staff Present:** City Attorney Whit Frost, 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. Ryan Turnage, Sergeant, US Marine Corps, Retired as Veteran of the Month. Mr. Turnage is co-owner of Barrel House Coffee and is currently employed with Lockheed Martin Aeronautic where he supports America's allies in maintaining the C130J Super Hercules.

**Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance led by Ryan Turnage, Veteran of the Month.**

**Item 3: Approve May 11, 2023 Agenda**

**Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the agenda as submitted.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments - None**

**Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items**

**May 13 – Ball Ground Garden Club Annual Plant Sale  
May 20 – BBQ & Brews**

**Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2023**

**Council Member Nelson put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the minutes of the March 9 City Council Meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 7: Old Business**

**a) Discuss Second Reading of 2023/2024 FY Operating Budget**

**Mayor Roberts noted that the budget had been properly advertised, and a public hearing was held on May 11, 2023, with only staff in attendance. No public comments were received.**

**Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller, to approve the FY 2023-2024 Operating Budget as submitted.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved**

**Item 8: New Business**

**a) Consider Notice to Proceed for Valley Street Sidewalk Extension**

City Manager Wilmarth addressed the council members concerning the issuance of a Notice to Proceed to Rapid Trac for the extension of the Valley Street Sidewalk. The construction budget of the project is \$38,467.00 with a project budget of \$45,717.00. It was further stated that in the Capital Improvement Plan \$20,000.00 was budgeted for the sidewalk extension that would have followed a \$300,000. Project of the installation of gates, lights, and signals at the RR crossing. It has been determined that the \$320,000. project can be accomplished for \$45,717.

Council Member Barnes put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the Notice to Proceed for the Valley Street Sidewalk for a cost of \$45,717.00.

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**b) Consider Adoption of Zoning Map**

Chris Luly, Director of Planning and Zoning presented an updated 2023 Zoning Map for council consideration. It was stated that normally this item of business is approved in January, but since we were in the process of updating the zoning ordinance, changing zoning classification, staff decided to wait until that process was complete and the map updated before presenting to council for approval.

Council Member Barnes put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the 2023 Zoning Map as presented.

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**c) Consider Appointments to Historic Preservation Committee**

Mayor Roberts presented the following names as appointees to the Historic Preservation Committee for council consideration: Josh Briggs, Annette Homiller, Karen Jordan, Stephanie Joyner, and Brent Richardson.

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to accept Josh Briggs, Annette Homiller, Karen Jordan, Stephanie Joyner, and Brent Richardson as appointees to the Historic Preservation Committee.

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**d) Consider Appointments Economic Development Committee**

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes, to table this item of business for 30 days.

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**e) Consider Memorandum of Understanding with Cherokee County Sheriff's Office for Purchase of Flock Cameras**

**Council Member Rogers outlined the benefit of having Flock Cameras within the City. She stated the cameras would be another tool for the police department to enhance their service.**

**Council Member Benefield stated that she spoke with Sheriff Reynolds about assisting with the cost of the cameras. She stated that Sheriff Reynolds agreed to pay 50% of the cost to purchase four cameras.**

**Chief Reeves addressed the importance of having the cameras and explained how they interact with other agencies who have Flock Cameras.**

**Mayor Roberts stated the cameras would be good for the Police Department and for the safety of our residents.**

**Council Member Homiller expressed her concern as to how the data collected from the cameras would be stored.**

**Attorney Frost stated the concern Council Member Homiller had could be addressed in the Intergovernmental Agreement when it is drafted. Attorney Frost stated he would gather information on this concern and report back to the council.**

**After further discussion Council Member Rogers put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to enter into an agreement with the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners with the agreement consented by Sheriff Frank Reynolds to share in the cost of purchasing four Flock Cameras to be installed within the City of Ball Ground.**

**The motion was approved with a vote of 4-1.**

**Item 9: City Manager Comments - Absent**

**Item 10: Mayor Roberts's Comments**

**Item 11: Council Comments**

**Item 12: Public Comments – None**

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

**Item 14: Adjourn**

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

**Motion Unanimously Approved**

**The minutes of this May 11, 2023 City Council Meeting unanimously approved this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of June 2023.**

**Respectfully submitted by:  
Karen L. Jordan  
City Clerk**