



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

**MINUTES
November 9, 2023**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order

In the absence of Mayor Rick Roberts, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Nelson.

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Recognize Veteran of the Month Mr. Al Fowler. A proclamation was presented to Mr. Fowler along with a challenge coin for his service.

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance - Led by AL Fowler, Veteran of the Month

Item 3: Approve Agenda

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

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments

Ryan Turnage, Owner of Barrel House Coffee thanked Chief Reeves and his department for their work in the community. Mr. Turnage stated that recently an incident occurred in his business between an employee and a customer. Because of this incident Mr. Turnage felt it was necessary to provide training for his staff on how to manage customers in different situations. Chief Reeves along with Officers Young and Witherington conducted a training session with employees on how to deal with unruly customers.

Bill Ross, Ross+associates – Impact Fees: The Nuts & Bolts
Mr. Ross gave a required presentation on the process of implementing Impact Fees.

Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items

Upcoming Events

- November 11 – Veterans Ceremony
- December 1 – Annual Christmas Parade
- December 2 – Christmas Market
- December 9 – Garden Club Tree Lighting in Botanical Gardens

Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: October 12, 2023

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023 meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 7: Old Business - None

Item 8: New Business

- a) **Consider Appointment to Fill Vacant Seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)**

Council Member Barnes put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller, to appoint Mr. Jack Davis as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- b) **Consider Appointments to Impact Fee Advisory Board**

City Manager Wilmarth stated that it was necessary for Council Members to appoint an Impact Fee Advisory Board. Each elected official may appoint one person to serve on the board. A minimum of three members must appoint someone from the development community.

**Council Member Barnes recommended Brad Smith.
Council Member Rogers recommended Sharon Morse
Council Member Homiller recommended Josh Briggs
Mayor Roberts recommended Chris Geist**

Council Member Barnes put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to accept Brad Smith, Sharon Morse, Josh Brigs and Chris Geist to fill the seats on the Impact Fee Advisory Board.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- c) **Consider Resolution - Cherokee Beautiful Organization**

Council Member Rogers put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to adopt A Resolution to commend the Keep Cherokee Beautiful Organization, to partner with the organization and volunteers to assist in cleaning up roadsides, streams, and other natural resources within the municipality boundaries of the City of Ball Ground, to outline the form of that partnership, and for other purposes.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 9: City Manager Comments

Chief Reeves provided the mayor and council with a monthly report of the police department's activity for the month ended October 31, 2023. He also reported that Officer Cohen attended a forty-hour officer survival training during the month.

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 October 31, 2023. The report showed cash on deposit totaling \$2,592,389.11.

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

Item 10: Mayor Roberts thanked the city staff for the work they do each day. He commented on the amount of work accomplished each day by the small staff.

Item 11: Council Comments

Council Members wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Benefield commented on the number of flags that have been deposited by the residents into the US Flag Retirement Box located outside the City Hall.

Council Member Homiller invited everyone to attend the Garden Club Tree Lighting to be held on December 9 in the Botanical Garden.

Item 12: Public Comments

Item 14: Executive Session (If Needed)

Item 15: Adjourn

There being no further business for council consideration Council Member Homiller put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Karen L. Jordan
City Clerk**