

Ball Ground City Council Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2005

The Ball Ground City Council met in regular session Thursday, March 10, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Pro Tem Frank Homiller presided over the meeting due to the absence of Mayor Roberts. Mayor Pro Tem Homiller asked those in attendance to stand and Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Council Members Present: John Byrd, Ashley Holcomb,
Lee Prettyman & Andrenia Stoner

Also Present: Ashley Fuller (Cherokee Tribune), Tom Brooks (Ledger News), Russ Sims (Cherokee BOE), Ken Keating, George Westbrook, Lee Phillips, Scott Lathem, James Prettyman, Benjie Webb, David Graham, Chief Dana Davis, City Attorney Darrell Caudill, City Administrator Eric Wilmarth & City Clerk Karen L. Jordan

2. Appearances - None

3. Approve Minutes Of The February 10, 2005 City Council Meeting

Council Member Holcomb moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2005 City Council Meeting as submitted in writing by the city clerk. Council Member Prettyman seconds the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.

4. Old Business

a) 2nd Reading of David Graham Annexation Petition

Mayor Pro Tem Homiller presented an annexation petition submitted by David Graham for a second reading. Mayor Pro Tem Homiller stated Mr. Graham has also submitted plans to renovate the existing building on the property. Plans submitted by Mr. Graham show the exterior of the building to be metal. Mayor Pro Tem Homiller stated although the Development Codes do not permit metal to be used on the exterior of a new structure this is renovation to an existing building therefore I recommend approval of Mr. Graham's plans. Council Members concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Homiller's recommendation to approve a metal exterior to the addition of the existing building. Council Member Holcomb asked Mr. Graham when he expected the renovations to be completed. Mr. Graham responded he hoped to have them completed in July. There being no further discussion Council Member Holcomb moved to accept Mr. Graham's annexation request of .44 acres located at 8609 Ball Ground Highway. Council Member Byrd seconded the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.

b) Board of Health Appointments

On behalf of Mayor Roberts Mayor Pro Tem Homiller asked council members to consider the following people to serve on the Board of Health: Kay Fowler, George Lewis, Mickey O'Malley, Phil Thomason and George Westbrook.

Council Member Holcomb moved to appoint Kay Fowler, George Lewis, Mickey O'Malley, Phil Thomason and George Westbrook to the Ball Ground Board of Health. Council Member Prettyman seconded the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.

5. New Business

a) Scott Lathem – Rezoning Request of 21.20 acres located on Cartersville Street.

Scott Lathem submitted a petition to the Cherokee County Municipal Planning Commission requesting the rezone of 21.20 acres located on Cartersville Street from R-40 to R-20. At the March 1, 2005 meeting of the Cherokee County Municipal Planning Commission approved Mr. Lathem's petition and submitted to the Ball Ground Mayor and City Council for their approval.

Mayor Pro Tem asked for comments. City Adm. Wilmarth stated the rezone request was consistent to the property zoning across the street.

Mr. Lathem presented the plans for the proposed development for review. Council Member Pretty asked to define open space.

Mr. Lathem replied the development is being developed under the R-20 zoning however 11 acres would be left for conservation. Meaning the land would not be development but left in it's natural state.

Mayor Pro Tem asked if council could specify the houses be build to a minimum of 1450 square foot.

City Adm. Wilmarth replied the application specifies the homes to be built at a minimum of 1477. Mr. Lathem stated he had no problem with the council's request.

City Adm. Wilmarth asked Mr. Lathem if he had reached an agreement with the Cherokee County Board of Education.

Mr. Lathem replied he had agreed to pay the Cherokee Co. BOE \$655.00 per home to off set the impact the development would have on the school system. Mr. Lathem did ask Mr. Russ Sims who represented the Cherokee Co. BOE the question if the amount is per lot even if a house is not built there. Mr. Sims answered yes....it is per lot.

Mayor Pro Tem Homiller asked if the development would be served by the sewer system. City Adm. Homiller replied that decision would be made upon review of the site plan.

There being no further discussion Council Member Byrd moved to approve the rezone petition to R-20 as submitted by W. S. Lathem Properties, LLC. Council Member Stoner seconded the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.

6. City Administrator's Report

City Adm. Wilmarth reported on the following:

Finance – A financial report for the month ended February 28, 2005 was submitted for mayor and council review.

City Adm. Wilmarth stated he had begun working on the 2006 budget.

Roads & Streets – A reply was sent to the DOT upon their request for the city to submit streets to be considered for paving under the LARP Grant. Lerol and Grogan Streets were submitted.

City Adm. Wilmarth stated GDOT has been contacted concerning the deterioration of A. W. Roberts Drive. Mayor Roberts has requested the truck traffic be rerouted to Highway 20 so the necessary repairs can be made and seasoned without the heavy truck traffic tearing it up again.

A sketch of Valley Street has been drawn showing the right of way requirements needed to open up the street. An initial meeting with the property owners where right of way is needed was held to discuss the matter with them.

Easy Ride Golf Carts has submitted a request asking if the city has plans to open a portion of Chestnut Street, which was show on the survey of the property. City Adm. Wilmarth stated he would obtain copies of their documents to determine if the city has right of way.

Parks & Recreation – Cherokee County Parks & Recreation Authority has agreed to install restrooms at the Calvin Farmer Park.

Tennis and Basketball courts will not be resurfaced until April due to the weather.

Water & Sewer – Construction of a new road to the proposed well site has been halted due to the rainy weather.

BB&T has approved financing of backup pumps for the three sewage lift stations.

Design of the pump station for the THO Development has been approved for construction.

Administrative - City Adm. Wilmarth reported that he and the city clerk had attended a Personnel Management Seminar presented by Local Government Risk Management Services.

City Adm. Wilmarth informed Council of a meeting between Mayor Roberts and Jon Benson to review the plans for the downtown streetscape project. Mayor Roberts asked for two changes to be made before unveiling them to the steering committee.

Police Department – Chief Davis has received 3 estimates for a new police vehicle. A request for funding to purchase a new car has been sent to the GMA Lease/Purchase Department.

Chief Davis presented a written report of the department’s activity for the month of February for council review.

City Administrator Wilmarth announced that a parade would be held Saturday, March 19 to celebrate the opening day of baseball season.

City Adm. Wilmarth also announced the Library FunRun would be held on Saturday, May 7 and the Heritage Day Festival would be held Saturday and Sunday May 21 & 22.

7. Mayor’s Report

No report given due to the absence of Mayor Roberts.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business for council consideration a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Date Approved: _____

Mayor Pro Tem Frank Homiller

Attest: _____
City Clerk Karen L. Jordan