



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

**Minutes
September 10, 2015**

**Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Rick Roberts
No August meeting was held.**

Council Members John Byrd, Frank Homiller, Mickey O'Malley, Lee Prettyman and Andrenia Stoner were present.

Staff Present: Donna England, Michael Chapman, Darrell Caudill, Eric Wilmarth and Karen L. Jordan

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Appearances

Dr. Keith Ingram, Principal of Ball Ground STEM Academy presented a very informative power point presentation of the curriculum and student activities of the school.

Mayor Roberts commended Dr. Ingram and his staff on the quality of education they provided to the students.

Dr. Ingram encouraged Mayor, Council Members, and staff to come for a visit to witness firsthand the activities provided to the students.

Beth Ingram, President of the Ball Ground Business and Community Association presented Mayor Roberts and Council Members with an Honorary Membership to the Ball Ground Business and Community Association.

Mayor Roberts thanked President Ingram and the Ball Ground Business and Community Association for all they do to promote the business community of Ball Ground. Mayor Roberts stated this organization is the backbone of the Ball Ground Business Community.

Item 4: Announcements/Informational Items/Project

- Movie in the park will be held September 12, 2015**
- September 26 Ball Ground Rocks the Park with Thomas Fountain performing.**
- The Downtown Development Authority/Main Street Board will sponsor a Scarecrow Contest throughout the month of October.**
- The Downtown Development Authority/Main Street Board will also sponsor a Spooktacular Evening in the Park on Friday, October 30, 2015. Trick or Treating begins at 4:00 PM with the movie and other events to follow.**

Item 5: Approval of Minutes - July 23, 2015 City Council Meeting

Council Member Stoner put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2015 City Council Meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 6: Old Business - None

Item 7: New Business

- a) **Consider 1st Reading of Joint Cherokee County Emergency Management/City of Ball Ground Disaster Debris Management Plan Ordinance Council Member**

Byrd put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Stoner to approve the first reading of the Joint Cherokee County Emergency Management/City of Ball Ground Disaster Debris Management Plan Ordinance.
Motion Unanimously Approved.

- b) **Consider declaration of surplus property: Dump truck**
Council Member Prettyman put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to declare a 1985 Chevy C60 (VIN 1GBG6DIB8FV105809) as surplus and to be sold to highest bidder.
Motion Unanimously Approved.

- c) **Consider Lease Agreement of 2015 John Deer Z7997R Commercial Mower**
Council Member Prettyman put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for the purchase of a 2015 John Deer Z7997R Commercial Mower. The total cost of the mower is \$15,900.00 and will be paid over a four-year period at a cost of \$363.96 per month.
Motion Unanimously Approved.

- d) **Consider Award of Bid for Paving of Valley Street Paving Project**
City Manager Wilmarth stated the project was properly advertised. As a result, two bids were received. Haithcock Grading and Paving, Inc. submitted a bid of \$77,452.34 and Baldwin Paving Company, Inc. submitted a bid of \$85,537.02. Following the bid opening, bids were further reviewed by City Manager Wilmarth. It is, therefore, his recommendation Council members approve the bid submitted by Haithcock Grading and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$77,452.34.

Council Member Prettyman put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Byrd to approve the bid submitted by Haithcock Grading and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$77,452.34.
Motion Unanimously Approved.

- e) **Consider First Reading of Ordinance Section 9-1-10: Solid Excrement Removal**
City Manager Wilmarth stated that recently there have been a number of individuals riding horses in the downtown area and leaving excrement by the horses on the streets and sidewalks. He recommended Council Members enact an ordinance requiring individuals or owners of the animals remove and properly dispose of the excrement left by the animals.

Council Member O'Malley put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Prettyman that the Code of the City of Ball Ground, Georgia, hereby be amended by adding a section to be numbered Section 9-1-10 of Title 9 Offenses as related to Solid Excrement Removal, which section reads as follows: The individual or owner in control of any animal in a City Park, Recreation Area, Street, Sidewalk or Public Place or Right of Way shall remove and properly dispose of any solid excrement left by the animal, including, but not limited to dogs and horses.
Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 8: City Manager Comments

Financial Report – City Manager Wilmarth presented an unaudited report of account balances, statement of revenue and expenditures for the month ended August 31, 2015. The report showed cash on deposit totaled \$861,198.43.

The financial audit for year ended June 30, 2015 is scheduled to begin on September 21, 2015.

Downtown Development Authority – Signed a lease agreement with Georgia Northeastern Railroad for property located on the southwest side of Gilmer Ferry Road. The cost to lease the property is \$290.00 per year. The Downtown Development Authority plans to develop the property into additional downtown parking.

City Manager Wilmarth announced plans are underway to change the names of several city streets. Gilmer Ferry Road would change to Main Street. Old Canton Road that intersects with Coy M. Holcomb Drive would change to Old Canton Road South. Ball Ground Highway within the City Limits would change to Canton Highway.

Mayor Roberts suggested possibly holding a public hearing for input from city residents before changing the names.

Water and Sewage – City Manager Wilmarth announced that the City had been awarded a small grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 to locate and abandon a 2” galvanized water line that its origin is unknown. It is believed the starting point is in the vicinity of Nix and Terrell Streets and ending point is on Old Canton Road.

City Manager Wilmarth stated that of this date only one small water leak was found during the project to find water leaks within the water system. Efforts will continue to determine where the leaks are so they can be repaired.

Planning and Zoning – City Manager Wilmarth announced that the United States Postal System will no longer deliver mail to individual homes located in subdivisions. The US Postal System is requiring developers to construct kiosks at the entrance to the subdivisions. This may become an issue since our architectural standards do not address this issue. Therefore, staff will evaluate this issue and search for a solution for future developments.

Public Safety - Chief Reeves presented a written report of the department’s activity for the month ended August 31, 2015.

Item 9: Mayor Roberts & City Council Comments

Mayor Roberts recognized Adelle Mickelson, President of the Ball Ground Lions Club and Chairman of Lion’s Club Summer Festival.

Mayor Roberts announced that we collected 85,260 pounds of recyclable material during the recent Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Mayor’s Recycling Challenge held during the months of June and July. This equated to 57.53 pounds per resident. He stated that once again we were beaten out of first place by the City of Waleska. Although the contest is over Mayor Roberts encouraged residents to continue to recycle.

The Cherokee County Board of Realtors will meet next week at which time Mayor Roberts announced he will present a ten-minute power point presentation on what makes Ball Ground unique.

Mayor Roberts expressed his desire to hold a work session before the end of the year to discuss the "Corridor of Influence".

Council Members Mickey O'Malley and Lee Prettyman were recognized by Mayor Roberts for receiving their "Certificate of Recognition" from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute for Elected Officials. Mayor Roberts stated each had completed the required 42 hours of training to receive the certificates.

Council Member O'Malley reported that the Cherokee YMCA will hold a meet and greet in Calvin Farmer Park on Saturday for those interested in participating in soccer.

The floors in City Gym are being refinished for the upcoming basketball season.

Several baseball tournaments have been held at Lions Field recently bringing 500 plus attendees to the City. Council Member O'Malley commented on the positive economic impact these tournaments have on our local businesses.

Council Member Prettyman expressed appreciation to those in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Council Member Prettyman extended appreciation to David Dean for his 20 years of service in the Public Works Department.

Council Member Homiller commented on the recent completion of the sidewalks along North Ridge Road.

Council Member Stoner commented on the newly installed sign welcoming everyone to the Historic Downtown Area. She stated she had received numerous positive comments about the sign.

Item 10: Public Comments

Phillip Thomason requested consideration be made to relocate the sign notifying vehicles that the use of Jake brakes is not allowed within the City Historic District.

Mayor Robert told Mr. Thomason that relocating the sign would require permission by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

City Manager Wilmarth stated he had submitted a request to GDOT to relocate the sign. Mayor Roberts asked City Manager Wilmarth if anything could be done to speed up the process. City Manager Wilmarth stated he would contact GDOT on the status of the request.

Mayor Roberts announced that the Ball Ground Historical Society would pay tribute to 50 Year of Baseball and to Raymond Cheshire for his contribution to the baseball league in Ball Ground. The event will be held at the Community Center on October 27, 2015 at 7:00 PM. The public is invited to attend.

Item 11: Executive Session: None

Item 12: Adjourn

There being no further business for Mayor and Council consideration a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

The minutes of September 10, 2015 City Council Meeting will be considered for approval at the October 15, 2015 City Council Meeting.

Mayor A. R. Roberts, III

Mayor Pro Tem Frank Homiller

Council Member John Byrd

Council Member Mickey O'Malley

Council Member Lee Prettyman

Council Member Andrenia Stoner

Attest: _____
Karen L. Jordan, City Clerk