



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

**MINUTES  
November 19, 2015**

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

**Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item 3: Appearances:**

- **Anita Summers, Sequoyah Regional Library Director presented Mayor and Council with the Sequoyah Regional Library System Statistical 2014-2015 Annual Report. Ms. Summers also spoke about the Library System Mission and Vision Statement and reported on the 2015 Strategic Planning Meetings. The Library System Goals and Objectives were reviewed and the new operational hours were announced for the 2016 Year.**

**Ms. Summers introduced Ms. Shirley Clayton, Manager of the Ball Ground Library. Ms. Clayton announced upcoming events to be held at the Library. Ms. Clayton also encouraged the community to take advantage of the services provided by the library.**

**Ms. Beth Hall was recognized for her service as the Ball Ground Representative on the Sequoyah Regional Library System Cherokee Board.**

- **Recognition of Brian Holcomb for Eagle Scout Status  
Mayor Roberts recognized Brian Holcomb, a member of the Ball Ground Boy Scout Troop 130 for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Brian was presented a Key to the City by Mayor Roberts. Mayor Roberts recognized Brian's parents and spoke about his project which will have an important impact on the Botanical Garden which is currently under construction on the grounds of City Hall.**

**Mayor Roberts also recognized Mark Popham, Scout Leader of Troop 130 for his years of service and the positive impact he has made on the lives of many young men in the community and for his receipt of the Whitney M. Young Service Award. Mark stated he was very humbled by the nomination and receipt of the award.**

**Item 4: Announcements/Informational Items/Project**

- **December 4 at 7:00 PM – March of the Toys-Toys for Tots Parade**

**Item 5: Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2015, City Council Meeting**

**Council Member Byrd put forth a motion, Seconded by Council O'Malley to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2015, City Council Meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 6: Old Business**

- a) **Consider 2nd Reading of Application for Wine Tasting Room/Package Sales  
Applicant: Feather's Edge Vineyards, LLC7  
Owners: Julia and David Boone  
Location: 9975 Ball Ground Hwy**

David Boone was present to update Mayor Roberts and Council on the opening of the Wine Tasting Room and the Feather's Edge Vineyards. He stated he hoped to be open by Thanksgiving.

Mayor Roberts commended David and Julia on their hard work and stated Feather's Edge would be the first vineyard in Cherokee County.

A Motion was made by Council Member Byrd; Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to approve the second reading for the issuance of a license to Feather's Edge Vineyards, LLC for the operation of a wine tasting room located 9975 Ball Ground Highway.

Motion Unanimously Approved

**Item 7: New Business**

**a) Consider Adoption of FY 14 – 15 Fire Tax Budget**

City Manager Wilmarth stated that currently the Fire Tax revenue was included in the general operating expense. Because of changes in the current general accounting principles, state law requires the revenue to be deposited into line item revenue and expense account, thus the reason for this change.

Motion by Council Member Homiller, Seconded by Council Member Byrd to approve the adoption of FY 2014-2015 Fire Tax Budget.

Budgeted Revenue: \$172,000.00

Budgeted Expense: \$131,000.00

Motion Unanimously Approved

**b) Consider Adoption of FY 15-16 Fire Tax Budget**

Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council to adopt the FY Fire 2015-2016 Budget.

Budgeted Revenue: \$199,000.00

Budgeted Expense: \$199,000.00

Motion Unanimously Approved

**c) Consider Amendment to FY15-16 General Operating Budget**

Council Member Byrd put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to approve the following amendments to the FY 2015-2016 General Operating Budget:

Motion Unanimously Approved

- The current accounts which the fire tax is identified as revenue and expenditures.

- General Fund Roads and Streets Expense Funds totaling \$34,393.00 will be transferred to the corresponding accounts in the Police Department Budget.

100-4221-55-511100	Salaries and Wages	\$23,880.00
100-4221-55-512100	Group Insurance	\$ 7,764.00
100-4221-55-512200	FICA	\$ 1,827.00
100-4221-55-512400	Retirement	\$ 422.00
100-4221-55-512700	Workers Comp	\$ 500.00
Total		\$34,393.00

**d) Consider Appointment of Downtown Development Authority Board Member**

Mayor Roberts announced that due to health related reasons Judson Roberts submitted his resignation on the Downtown Development Authority and the Main Street Board leaving his position to be filled. Mayor Roberts stated Kathy Day a resident of Cherokee County and with a financial interest in the downtown district had expressed her interest in filling the position.

Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Byrd to approve the appointment of Kathy Day to the Downtown Development Authority and Main Street Board to fill the remaining term of Judson Roberts. Motion Unanimously Approved.

e) **Consider Change to Personnel Handbook**

City Manager Wilmarth informed Mayor Roberts and Council that employee health insurance coverage increased 31% for the upcoming year. Due to the increase, the staff has been consulting with the insurance provider to find a comparable plan at less cost. Also, because we have a small number of employees this also is a factor in the increased coverage. By allowing employees to buy into the insurance coverage and providing coverage to employees who work 20 or more hours per week, this would decrease the cost of the insurance.

Following Mayor and Council discussion, Council Member Byrd put forth a motion to provide insurance coverage to employees who work 20 or more hours per week.

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 October 31, 2015. The report showed cash on deposit totaled 871,651.31.

**Public Works**

- The Valley Street Paving and Downtown Parking Projects are nearing completion.
- Valley Street Streetscape Project is currently being held up because the lack of federal funding. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) where the project funds are derived from was diverted to other GDOT projects.
- Numerous problems continue to plague the sewage pumps located at the Mountain Brook Lift Station. Public Works crew are continuing to work on the problems and hope to have them resolved soon.

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

**Item 9: Mayor Roberts & City Council Comments**

Mayor Roberts reported he attended a Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) training session on How to Effectively Market and Brand Your City. Mayor Roberts stated the class discussed the benefits of developing a brand for your city and using that brand and other tools to market your city, both to potential visitors, businesses and city residents.

**Council Member O'Malley reported:**

- The Creekview Softball season had ended for the year but looking forward to the team returning in 2016.
- The Creekview Tennis team would be using the City of Ball Ground Tennis Courts for their practice sessions.

Council Member Byrd reported that the Roberts Building located at 335 Gilmer Ferry Road has new ownership. It is anticipated that the new owner will begin renovation of the building very soon.

The much-anticipated opening of the Burger Bus is scheduled to happen very soon announced Council Member Byrd.

Council Member Byrd also Chairman of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Main Street Board commented on the meeting held earlier today. He stated it was the most productive meeting they have had so far.

**Item 10: Public Comments**

Mark Popham, city resident and Ball Ground Boy Scout Troop 130 Leader commended Mayor Roberts and Council Member on the 2015 Concert and Movie in the Park Events. Mark also serves as the Chaplin for the Ball Ground Masonic Lodge and commented on how the Lodge had greatly benefited from these events and it was good to see people come out to support the events.

**Item 11: Executive Session: None**

**Item 12: Adjourn**

There being no further business for Mayor and Council Members to consider a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

The minutes of this November 19, 2015 City Council Meeting will be considered for approval at the December 10, 2015 meeting of the City Council.

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Mayor A. R. Roberts, III

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Mayor Pro Tem Frank Homiller

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Council Member John Byrd

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Council Member Mickey O'Malley

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Council Member Lee Prettyman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Andrenia Stoner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Karen L. Jordan, City Clerk