



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

**Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2016**

Item 1: Meeting called to order by Mayor Rick Roberts

Council Members Present: John Byrd, Frank Homiller, Mickey O'Malley and Andrenia Stoner

Council Member Lee Prettyman was absent

Staff Present: Darrell Caudill, Michael Chapman, Donna England, Karla Weaver, Bryon Reeves, Eric Wilmarth and Karen Jordan

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member John Byrd

Item 3: Appearances

- **Recognize Sean Nichols Scout Troop 1755 Ball Ground United Methodist Church. Sean will receive his rank as Eagle Scout on April 16th at a ceremony to be held at the Ball Ground United Methodist Church.**

Mayor Roberts presented Sean with a Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding achievement, exceptionally leadership and citizenship in obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Mayor Roberts stated Shawn's work in building a prayer trail around the Ball Ground Methodist Church for all to enjoy is certainly a significant accomplishment.

Item 4: Announcements/Informational Items/Project Updates – City Manager

Item 5: Approval of March 10, 2016 Minutes

Council Member Stoner put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2016 meeting as submitted by the City Clerk.

Motion Unanimously Approved

Item 6: Old Business - None

Item 7: New Business

a) Consider Annexation Petition Submitted By:

**Property Owner: Stefanie Joyner
Address 995 Old Canton Road**

Ms. Stefanie Joyner who recently purchased the Grady Holcomb home located at 995 Old Canton submitted a petition for annexation. The property of 1.5 acres is presently zoned R-40 with no change in the intended use. It is also noted as all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in part of land Lot 39 of the 4th District, 2nd Section, Cherokee County, Georgia and being more described as Cherokee Co. Map and Parcel Number 04N04C-024.

Council Member Byrd put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to accept Ms. Joyner's annexation petition as a first reading.

Motion Unanimously Approved

b) Resolution 2016-04 Designating April 17-23 as Georgia Cities Week in the City of Ball Ground

Mayor Roberts read and signed with the unanimous approval of City Council Members to declare April 17-23 as Georgia Cities Week in the City of Ball Ground.

City Clerk Karen Jordan announced the activities for the week consist of a daily trivia question posted on Facebook, Photo Contest, Touch a Truck and Movie in the Park on Friday Evening and If I Were Mayor I Would.....Essay Contest.

GEORGIA CITIES WEEK
April 17-23, 2016

A RESOLUTION No. 2016 R-04 OF THE CITY OF BALL GROUND RECOGNIZING GEORGIA CITIES WEEK, APRIL 17-23 AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, city government is the closest to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, this week offers an important opportunity to spread the word to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Municipal Association and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF BALL GROUND DOES HERBYBY DECLARES APRIL 17-23, 2016 AS GEORGIA CITIES WEEK.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF BALL GROUND ENCOURAGES ALL CITIZENS, CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THIS WEEK IS RECOGNIZED AND CELEBRATED ACCORDINGLY.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of BALL GROUND this 14th Day of April, 2016.

Signed: /S/ Mayor Rick Roberts

Attest: /S/ Karen L. Jordan, City Clerk

c) 1st Reading of the FY 2016-2017 Budget

Mayor Roberts presented the FY 2016/2017 Budget for Council consideration. Mayor Roberts stated the budget shows an increase of 7.7% from the previous 2015/2016 Budget. He further stated that as Ball Ground continues to grow so does the cost of services.

Budget totals are as follows:

General Fund	\$ 816,860.00
Fire District Tax	\$ 182,800.00
Water/Sewer	\$ 955,090.00
SPLOST	\$ 422,020.00
Solid Waste	\$ 144,000.00
Total	\$2,520,770.00

Council Member Byrd put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to approve the first reading of the 2016/2017 Fiscal Year Budget.
Motion Unanimously Approved

d) Consider Schedule of Fees and Charges for City Services

City Manager Wilmarth presented for Mayor and Council consideration a revised Schedule of Fees and Charges for City Services. He noted that although most fees and charges would remain the same, he recommended an increase in the Community Building rental rate and an increase in the water capacity fees and sewer capacity fees that will impact new connection only.

Mayor and Council Members reviewed the recommended changes. Council Member Byrd then put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to approve the Schedule of Fees and Charges for City Services as submitted and implement such fees and charges effective July 1, 2016.
Motion Unanimously Approved

e) Consider Approval of Temporary Permit for Mobile Unit Located at 180 Howell Bridge Road East

Mayor Roberts stated he had been in discussion with the property owner of 180 Howell Bridge Road concerning the mobile unit located at that address. He asked Council Members to consider granting a 1 year temporary permit for the structure to remain on the property.

It was noted that the structure was placed there in 2007 as a temporary location for United Community Bank. At that time both the City Council and property owner agreed that once the bank relocated to its permanent location the temporary unit would be removed. That was not the case and the unit has remained.

Council Member Homiller stated the building is a constant irritant and eye sore. He further stated that the businesses that have located there have not complied with city ordinances and would like to discuss this matter further before making any decisions.

A motion was made by Council Member Homiller, Seconded by Council Member Stoner to table this request until the May meeting.
Motion Unanimously Approved

Item 8: Staff Comments

- Karla Weaver, Downtown Development/Main St. Director
Ms. Weaver stated The Georgia Main Street Program has been an active contributor to the revitalization success of Georgia's historic commercial

district since 1980. All Classic Main Street Programs are designed by the state of Georgia and nationally accredited by the National Main Street Center annually. As part of the annual accreditation process all Classic Main Street communities are required to meet the 10 national standards for accreditation. These standards place an emphasis on historic preservation education as well as economic development, lending itself to an active and vibrant downtown. I'm honored to announce that Ball Ground has passed and is again designated as a Classic Main Street City.

Ms. Weaver also reported:

Four new business licenses were issued for the month of March with three of the license being for downtown businesses.

The month of May kicks off the Summer Ball Ground Rocks the Park Concert Series along with a monthly movie event and Trade Days. Trade Days will be held the first Saturday of May and September. Residents can pick up a list of the Calendar of Events brochure at City Hall or any local business. Ms. Weaver thanked Council Member Byrd for his assistance designing the brochure.

Mayor Roberts stated he and Ms. Weaver attended the Georgia Downtown Development Conference last month in Athens. Mayor Roberts commended Ms. Weaver for her professionalism and notoriety among her peers at the conference.

- **Police Chief Bryon Reeves**

Chief Reeves presented a written report of the department's activity for the period ended March 30, 2016. He also stated that during the month the department assisted CMANS with three different cases where individuals were arrested on trafficking charges of Methamphetamines.

The Department also cooperated with the Cherokee County District Attorney's Office in an investigation of a complex fraud case.

Mayor Roberts commended Chief Reeves on the number of positive comments concerning the departments presents in and around the community.

- **City Manager Eric Wilmarth**

Financial Report – City Manager Wilmarth presented an unaudited report of account balances, statement of revenue and expenditures for the month ended March 30, 2016. The report showed cash on deposit totaled \$841,529.81.

City Manager Wilmarth stated his main focus for the month had been working on the 2016/2017 FY Budget. He was glad to say that tonight the project had been completed and ready for Mayor and Council review and consideration at tonight's meeting.

Other items reported:

- The Hwy. 372 sewage line project is 100% completed and is in operation. The total cost of the project was \$138,718.20.
- Right of way waiver plans for the Valley Streetscapes Project have been approved by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Next step is to enter into a Real Property Agreement (RAP) with GDOT.
- After what is believed to be inaccurate traffic count studies performed by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) the City has hired and independent contractor to perform a traffic count on several city

streets. The findings of the study will be announced up on its completion.

- The City of Ball Ground Water System now has a second connection to the Cherokee County Water and Sewage System (CCWSA). The 16” line was installed and connected at Sharp Mountain Church Lane. This is an extra layer of protection should our water system fail.

Item 9: Mayor Roberts Comments

Mayor Roberts stated that the City of Canton is working on guidelines for Downtown Canton and he has been monitoring their progress. He stated he would like for Karla Weaver and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)/Main St. Committee and Council Member Stoner and her committee to revisit the standards that were proposed earlier in the year and compile a new set for consideration.

Mayor Roberts expressed his desire for Council Members to consider a mobile tour of the downtown areas for both the City of Blue Ridge and Ellijay at a date and time to be decided later.

Item 10: City Council Comments

Council Member Homiller echoed the need for architectural guidelines for the downtown area. He further commented on the revitalization of the City of Cartersville and the obstacles they had to overcome.

Council Member O’Malley reported that the City Gym would was in excellent condition with the exception of the concession area. The flooring in this area will need to be replaced in the near future.

Council Member O’Malley also reported that the softball and baseball fields are in excellent condition with games being played on both fields almost daily. He also commented that the Calvin Farmer performing stage has been vandalized in recent month and repairs are needed soon for this area,

Item 11: Public Comments

Mr. Phillip Thomason of 570 Gilmer Ferry Road addressed mayor and council on several issues.

- The speed limit sign located in front of his property had been knocked down.
- Street light located at 688 Gilmer Ferry Rd. was not working
- Mr. Thomason stated he had contacted the office of Senator Brandon Beach concerning the relocation of the “No jake brake sign”.

City Manager Wilmarth stated the sign could be moved but not enforceable if moved outside the designated area. City Manager Wilmarth stated he would contact the office of Senator Beach to discuss this matter.

Mr. Jon Wallace, Field Representative for the office of Congressman Barry Loudermilk addressed Mayor, Council Members and those present concerning the services offered by Congressman Loudermilk’s Office. He encouraged residents having social security or Veteran’s Benefits to contact his office for assistance.

Mayor Roberts thanked Mr. Wallace for coming and stated it was nice to have a local office offering assistance to residents.

Sean Nicholes extended an invitation to Mayor Roberts, Council Members and Staff to attend his Eagle Scout Ceremony on Saturday, April 15, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

Item 12: Executive Session (If Needed)

Item 13: Adjourn

There being no further business for Mayor and Council consideration a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn at 8:20 PM.

The minutes of this April 14, 2015 City Council Meeting approved this 12th Day of May, 2016.

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