



**Meeting of the Mayor and City Council  
City of Ball Ground, Georgia  
Ball Ground City Hall – 6:00 PM**

**Minutes  
June 9, 2016**

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

**Council Members Present: John Byrd, Frank Homiller, Mickey O'Malley,  
Lee Prettyman, Andrenia Stoner**

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

**Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item 3: Appearances - None**

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

**Upcoming Events: June 11, 2016 Dedication of Botanical Garden  
June 24-28 GMA Annual Conference/Elected Officials  
Training  
July 2, 2016 City Sponsored Fireworks in the park**

**Item 5: Approval of May 12, 2016 Minutes and May 26, 2016 Work Session**

**Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Byrd to  
approve the minutes of the May 12, 2016 Council meeting and the minutes of the May 26,  
2016 work session as submitted in writing by the city clerk.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 6: Old Business**

- a) Consider 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Annexation Petition Submitted By:  
Applicant: Birchwood Properties-James Turner & Taylor Weaver  
Address: 312 Northridge Road**

**Council Member Byrd put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to  
approve the second reading of the Annexation Petition submitted by Birchwood Properties  
for property located at 312 Northridge Road.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 7: New Business**

- a) Consider Special Use Permit for Crematorium  
Applicant: Brian Pool**

**Location: 119 North Gate Drive**

**Mayor Roberts stated a work session was held on May 26, 2016 to discuss the request  
for a special permit made by Mr. Brian Pool to operate a crematory at 119 North Gate  
Drive. Mayor Roberts asked if council members had any additional questions or  
concerns. No comments were made.**

**Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Byrd to  
grant a special use permit to enable a crematorium to operate at 119 North Gate  
Industrial Drive given that it is similar in character to those items allowed in our Light  
Industrial Zoning, and that the use is similar in impact to those uses already in**

existence in the Gateway Industrial Park, subject to the emissions monitoring and operations as agreed to by Mr. Poole in the work session.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.

**b) Consider Setting of Millage Rate 2016 Property Tax Digest**

Mayor Roberts stated that because the 2016 property tax digest reflected an increase in growth we would be able to remain revenue neutral when setting the millage rate this year.

City Manager Wilmarth recommended council members consider setting the millage rate at 4.916 mills. City Manager Wilmarth stated this is not a tax increase nor is it a tax decrease. We have been able to remain revenue neutral for the past 6 years.

Council Member Prettyman put forth a motion, Seconded by Council member O'Malley to set a millage rate of 4.916 for the 2016 property tax.  
Motion Unanimously Approved.

**c) Consider Proclamation Proclaiming June 15, 2016 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day**  
Mayor Roberts read the following proclamation.

**PROCLAMATION  
CITY OF BALL GROUND**

Whereas: The City of Ball Ground older adults deserve to live safely with dignity and as independently as possible, with the supports they need.

Whereas: Elder abuse is most often defined as an act that harms a senior or developmentally disabled adult or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare.

Whereas: Eliminating abuse to older persons or developmentally disabled adult is each community's responsibility; the City of Ball Ground is concerned about the risk to their older/disabled residents who suffer from neglect or are victims of financial, emotional or physical abuse.

Whereas: All of our residents should watch for signs of abuse, such as physical trauma, withdrawal, depression, anxiety, fear of family members, friends, or caregivers.

Therefore: I, Mayor A. R. Roberts, III on behalf of the City of Ball Ground and the people of this great community, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2016 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day and encourage everyone to commit to build a safer community for our older and developmentally disabled residents.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016.

s/s Mayor A. R. Roberts, III

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

**Council Members unanimously declared along with Mayor Roberts June 15, 2016 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the City of Ball Ground.**

**d) Consider Agreement with Georgia Municipal Association for Cable and Telecommunications Management Services (Franchise Fees)**

City Manager Wilmarth stated he had received correspondence from a Telecommunications Company requesting access to the public rights of way within the City. Upon talking to other city managers within the county who had received similar

requests he decided to contact the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) for assistance. When talking to GMA he learned more about the services they offer related to cable and telecommunications franchise issues, rights of way usage, etc.

City Manager Wilmarth stated he felt it in the best interest of the City to enter into an agreement with the Georgia Municipal Association for cable and telecommunications management services for a period of one year at a cost of \$1,000.00. City Manager Wilmarth stated City Attorney Darrell Caudill had reviewed and made a few minor revisions to the agreement then sent it back to GMA for their review.

Council Member Byrd put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member to Prettyman to enter into an agreement with The Georgia Municipal Association for Cable and Telecommunications Management Services for a period of one year at a cost of \$1,000.00.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

#### Item 8: Staff Comments

- **Karla Weaver, Downtown Development/Main St. Director**  
Ms. Weaver reported that three board members would be attending the Main St. 101 training in Covington later this month. She also reported that the entire board had completed their Downtown Development Authority training.

It was estimated that Trade Days, The Thomas Fountain Concert and Movie in the Park brought approximately 1500 people to our downtown.

Ms. Weaver announced the following upcoming events:

Saturday, June 4 – Drivewire Concert

Thursday, June 16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Music Event hosted by WYYZ Radio Station

Saturday, June 16 – Movie in the Park

Saturday, July 2 - Fireworks

- **Police Chief Bryon Reeves**  
Chief Reeves presented a written monthly report for period ended May 31, 2016 of the Police Department activity.
- **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 May 31, 2016. The report showed cash on deposit totaled \$777,345.78

#### Other Items reported

- Update given on the Valley Streetscape Project
- Fire Station construction is rapidly progressing.
- The second water line connection to the Cherokee County Water and Sewage Authority (CCWSA) is 100% complete.
- Groover St. Storm Water Project work resumed this week. Project should be completed within the next week.
- Borrow Pit/Etowah River Bridge Project – Although the bridge is not located within our city a completion date of July 18, 2016 has been announced by the Department of Transportation. Once the bridge is completed final grading and completion of the borrow pit located behind the community center will be done.
- The plan to search for unaccounted water was unsuccessful due to the work being done to complete the construction of the 16” line located at Leo Taylor Lane.

- The public works committee plans to meet in the next several weeks to discuss a plan to present to mayor and council on our water supply, water exploration and purchase capacity.
- The Mission Communications module is now fully operational at the stand pipe and elevated tanks, well house and Howell Bridge Lift Station. This allows Eric and public works staff access via cell phone to monitor the water levels at each of the locations.
- As previously Council Member O'Malley along with City Manager Wilmarth will be meeting with a property owner along the Etowah River near East Cherokee Drive to discuss the possibility of a land lease to construct a kayak and canoe launch where the public can access the river.
- A draft sign ordinance was distributed earlier today to the executive committee for their review.

**Item 9: Mayor Roberts Comments**

Mayor Roberts recognized and welcomed to the meeting Kaleb Osborne of Ball Ground Scout Troop 1755.

Mayor Roberts stated he along with Council Members Byrd, O'Malley and Prettyman and Staff Members Eric Wilmarth and Karen Jordan would be attending the annual Georgia Municipal Association Conference June 24-28. Mayor Roberts stated the conference provides training programs designed to help city officials enhance their knowledge and skills in municipal related matters. The conference is also an excellent opportunity to interact with other elected officials.

**Item 10: City Council Comments**

Council Member O'Malley stated he is looking forward to a meeting to discuss a second canoe launch site on the Etowah River.

Council Member O'Malley also stated the City Gym is being utilized almost every night.

Council Member Prettyman expressed his appreciation to the Public Works Department for their continued hard work. He also commended City Manager Wilmarth for his construction of a foot bridge located in the Botanical Garden located on the grounds of City Hall.

Council Member Prettyman reported on the success of the Lions Club Summerfest Festival. He thanked city staff for their support and work they put into making the festival a success.

**Item 11: Public Comments**

Adam Kimball, Chef of Les Bon Tempe addressed Mayor Roberts and Council Members on behalf of the restaurants in downtown concerning the Lions Club Summerfest Festival. He stated not only did his business show a decrease in revenue for the weekend, but the other businesses located in downtown. He asked that in the future that when planning festivals it be considered how the event would affect the downtown businesses.

Leonard Clayton stated he was proud to see projects such as hiking trails and canoe launches being constructed in Ball Ground. He thanked Mayor Roberts and Council Members for thinking and planning for the future of Ball Ground.

Paula Dorris a member of the Ball Ground Anesta-Ga-Da Garden Club requested Mayor Roberts and Council Members proclaim the week of June 5-11 as National Garden Week. Mayor Roberts and Council Members unanimously declared the week as National Garden Week in the City of Ball Ground.

Ms. Dorris extended an invitation to everyone to attend the dedication of the Ball Ground Botanical Garden on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 11:00 AM.

**Item 12: Executive Session (If Needed)**

**Item 13: Adjourn**

There being no further business for Mayor and Council Members consideration the meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

The minutes of the June 9, 2016 regular scheduled meeting of the Ball Ground City approved this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2016.

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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

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Council Member Andrenia Stoner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Karen L. Jordan, City Clerk