



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

**MINUTES
October 13, 2016**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Rick Roberts

Council Members Present: John Byrd, Frank Homiller, Mickey O'Malley and Lee Prettyman

Council Member Andrenia Stoner was absent

Staff Present: Whit Frost, Michael Chapman, Donna England, Eric Wilmarth, Karen Jordan and Bryon Reeves

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Appearances

Marshall Day, Chairman of the Cherokee Development Authority spoke to Mayor and Council Members concerning the upcoming

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

- **November 5, 2016 Mayor and City Council Planning Retreat**
- **December 2, 2016 is the date of the Annual Christmas Parade**

Item 5: Approval of September 8, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Prettyman put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2016 City Council Meeting

Item 6: Old Business

a) Consider 2016/2017 Budget Amendments

Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Byrd to approve the second reading of the following budget amendments:

Motion Unanimously Approved

General Fund:

Increase revenue by \$16,000. (Source would be Reserve Fund Balance)

Increase Operating transfers by \$16,000.

SPLOST Fund:

Increase revenue by \$16,000. (Transfer from General Fund)

Increase State Grant Receipts form \$20,000. To \$26,511.

Decrease Valley Streetscapes Expense by \$10,000.

Decrease Contingencies by \$12,458.

Increase Repairs and Maintenance (Capital) by \$44,969

Item 7: New Business

a) Consider Birchwood Properties LLC Application for Zoning Change

Address: 312 Northridge Road

The applicant is requesting to rezone 10.0 acres from AG to RZL for a single-family residential subdivision.

City Manager Wilmarth read the recommendation of the Cherokee County Planning and Land Use Department regarding an application for a zoning change by Birchwood Properties< LLC. The report stated a public hearing was held on October 4, 2016 by the Cherokee Planning Commission at which time the board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the zoning request. It was further stated in the report that no one came forward at the public hearing to speak in support or opposition of the application.

Mayor Roberts asked Council Members for comments.

Council Member Homiller asked if the executive committee would review the plans once submitted to staff for review.

City Manager Wilmarth answered yes they would.

There being no further discussion or comments a motion was put forth by Council Member Homiller, Seconded by Council Member Byrd to approve the Birchwood Properties, LLC application for a zoning change of 10.0 +/- located at 312 Northridge Road to RZL.

Motion Unanimously Approved

b) Consider Bid for Valley Street Paving Project

City Manager Wilmarth reported the following bids were submitted for the Valley Street Paving Project:

Baldwin Paving Company	\$54,318.00
Haithcock Grading & Paving Company	\$50,546.00

City Manager Wilmarth then stated an error made in the tonnage amount stated in the RFP submitted to the contractors. The error increased the project by \$5,000.00. However, the error did not make a difference in either of the proposal submitted.

A motion was put forth by Council Member Prettyman, Seconded by Council Member O'Malley to approve the bid submitted by Haithcock Grading and Paving Company in the amount \$50,546.00.

Motion Unanimously Approved

- c) Consider Resolution Proclaiming Tuesday, October 25, 2016 Mark Popham Day
A motion by Council Member Homiller Homiller, Seconded by Council Member Prettyman to approve a resolution proclaiming Tuesday, October 25, 2016 as Mark Popham Day in the City of Ball Ground and to recognize his 44 years of service and contribution to Boy Scout Troop 130 and to the Ball Ground Community.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mark Popham will be honored by friends and family on October 25th, 2016 as the Ball Ground Historical Society Recognizes Ball Ground Boy Scout Troops; and

WHEREAS, our nation's heritage is based on citizen involvement and citizen participation. Volunteerism is of enormous benefit in building a better community, a better sense of one's own well-being; and

WHEREAS, volunteering is a powerful force of the solution of human problems, and the creative use of human resources is essential to a healthy, productive and humane society; and

WHEREAS, Mark Popham through his years of serving as Scout Master for Troop 130 has been a positive influence on hundreds of children in our community; and

WHEREAS, Mark Popham has served his country by serving in the United States Army and further served his community by his involvement in the Ball Ground Lions Club, Ball Ground Masonic Lodge, Ball Ground City Council and Bethesda Baptist Church; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, A. R. Roberts, III, Mayor of the City of Ball Ground, and the Ball Ground City Council, do hereby proclaim October 25th, 2016 to be "Mark Popham Day" in the City of Ball Ground.

*/s/ A. R. Roberts, III, Mayor
R. Roberts, III, Mayor*

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

- d) Consider Resolution Proclaiming November 6-12 as Veterans Week
A motion by Council Member Byrd, Seconded by Council Member Prettyman
the following Resolution was read by Mayor Roberts proclaiming November 6-12, 2016 as Veterans Week and November 11, 2016 as Veterans Day in the City of Ball Ground.
Motion Unanimously Approved**

A Proclamation VETERANS DAY

WHEREAS: in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the first Veterans Day proclamation calling on our nation to "pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this nation"; and

WHEREAS: Our nation has fought and continues to fight battles around the world. The words of that first proclamation still ring true: "let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain; and

WHEREAS: We remember with somber and grateful hearts those men and women who have served the United States of America with distinction and valor as soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, and offer our sincere prayers for those who continue to defend the principles on which our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is home to more than 753,000 veterans and tens of thousands of our nation's military families. We are proud to recognize our country's veterans and extend the appreciation of our citizens to those who wear the uniform of the United States Forces and serve on the front lines preserving freedom and liberty;

NOW THEREFORE: I, A. R. Roberts, III, Mayor of the City of Ball Ground do hereby proclaim November 11, 2016 as VETERANS DAY and November 6-12, 2016 as VETERANS WEEK in the City of Ball Ground and encourage all citizens to observe and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions of our veterans who fought for peace and defended democracy in our land and abroad.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of this City to be affixed this 13th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

S/S A. R. Roberts, III, Mayor

s/s Karen L. Jordan, City Clerk

Item 8: Staff Comments

Karla Weaver, Main Street Director reported

- **Scarecrows have invaded Downtown.** 14 applications have been received requesting to place a scarecrow in the Downtown area. As of today, only 6 have been placed.
- **2nd Annual Spooktacular** will be held in City Park on Friday, October 28 from 4 to 9 PM.
- **The 2016 Movie and Concert in the Park Season** have ended. It was a great year bringing an estimated attendance of over 8,000 people to the Downtown over the course of the events.
- **Four building in the downtown area** was purchased last year and have been undergoing renovation. Within the next two weeks, one of the buildings will open occupying a new business under the name of Southern Oak Provisions. The renovation process has been slow, but the final product will be a great asset to the Downtown Area. The remaining three building hope to open in early 2017 bring an additional three new businesses to the Downtown.

City Manager Eric Wilmarth reported

- **Financial Report – City Manager Wilmarth** presented an unaudited report of account balances, statement of revenue and expenditures for the month ended September 30, 2016. The report showed cash on deposit totaled \$686,472.20

Mauldin and Jenkins have completed the file work on the annual audit. A final report audit will be forthcoming upon final review.

The staff is working on rewriting the current Alcohol Ordinance. Hope to present a draft for council consideration at the December Council Meeting,

- **Project Updates**
Valley Streetscapes Project is currently awaiting the Cost Estimates and assessments for the right of way acquisition.

The new Cherokee County Fire Station is currently 95% complete. It is anticipated the building will be ready for occupying in early November.

- **Water/Sewage**
The elevated water storage tank has recently been completed renovated inside and out. The inside was sandblasted, primed and three layers of epoxy applied. After cure time of the inside, the outside received several repairs. During this time the tank was out of service water was purchased from the CCWSA. Hope to begin filling the tank on Friday.

As of today four solid waste service providers have requested bid packets. The bid opening for the letting of the new contract will be November 4, 2016. The bids will be tabulated and presented at the December Council Meeting for Mayor and Council consideration.

Parks and Recreation

- **Our partnership with the Creekview High School Lady Grizzlies** continues to grow. The Lady Grizzlies Softball Team recently won their division in Region 6A.

Item 9: Mayor Roberts Comments

Mayor Roberts announced the date of November 5 for the annual Council planning retreat. The location and time of the meeting will be determined at a later date.

Mayor Roberts asked each Council Members to bring forth an issue along with an action plan to discuss at the retreat. Issues and action plan are to be submitted to Eric by the end of October.

Mayor Roberts reported that he and Eric met with Senator Brandon Beach to discuss the problems we have experienced recently with chicken trucks and how to solve the problem. Several times this month the trucks have spilled hazardous chicken waste on Gilmer Ferry Road and A. E. Roberts Streets.

Mayor Roberts stated a bypass would eliminate the problem, but one is not scheduled to be built until the year 2040. However, with local funding, the road could be built sooner.

Senator Beach asked for a list of issues facing the City which Mayor Roberts stated gave him hope of assistance with our problems.

Item 10: City Council Comments

Council Member O'Malley stated our partnership with Creekview High School Athletic Department continues to grow. As the different athletic teams continue to use our facilities, more and more people come to Ball Ground. Comments from parents received by Council Member O'Malley are very positive. People are very impressed with what Ball Ground has to offer stated Council Member O'Malley.

Council Member Homiller stated he has received several comments concerning the safety of people who use the sidewalk along Gilmer Ferry Road in the area of Roberts Lake Road. He asked if consideration could be given to relocating on the south side of the road.

Mayor Roberts stated this could be a topic that council could discuss at the planning retreat.

Item 11: Public Comments

Mr. Leonard Clayton spoke to Mayor and Council Members about his concern with the truck traffic in our downtown area. He stated it is a disgrace and hopes the City can get help to divert the trucks out of the downtown area.

Mr. Clayton also stated he is proud to see industry coming to the City.

Mrs. Betty Clayton spoke to Mayor and Council Members about what a great post office we have in Ball Ground. The staff is always very friendly and helpful she stated.

Mrs. Clayton also praised the member of the Ball Ground Garden Club for the beautiful flower planters placed in the downtown area.

Mrs. Clayton further stated she is proud to live in Ball Ground and commended Mayor Roberts and Council Members for their leadership in making Ball Ground a great place to live.

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 8:35PM.

The minutes of this October 13, 2016 Meeting of the Ball Ground City Council approved this 10th Day of November 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