



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

**Minutes
March 10, 2022**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Roberts

Council Members Present: Vicki Benefield, Dennis Nelson, Lee Prettyman, Kristine Rogers, Andrenia Stoner

Staff Present: City Attorney Darrell Caudill, City Manager Eric Wilmarth, Police Chief Bryon Reeves, Finance Director Donna England, and City Clerk Karen L. Jordan

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Approve Agenda

**Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the agenda as submitted.
Motion Unanimously Approved.**

Item 4: Appearances

City resident and President of the Sage Hill Homeowners Association, George Hobart addressed the council to express objection to the SunCap Property Group, LLC development.

City Resident Don Grogan addressed the council asking for verification of his street address.

Tim Prather, Cherokee County Fire Chief presented the Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services 2021 Annual Report.

Chief Prather announced that he would be retiring on March 11, 2022. He then introduced the newly appointed Fire Chief Eddie Robinson.

Mayor Roberts thanked Chief Prather for his years of dedication service to the City of Ball Ground and Cherokee County. Chief Prather was presented with a key to the City by Mayor Roberts.

Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items/Project Updates – City Manager

City Council will meet Saturday, March 12, 2022 from 8:00AM to 5:00PM at the Ball Ground Senior Center for their annual planning retreat.

BBQ & Brews Festival will be held Saturday, April 30 in City Park

Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2022 Council Meeting

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022 Council Meeting as submitted in writing. Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 7: Old Business

Item 8: New Business

- a) **Consider Request from DDA to Permit Open Container for Special Events in Downtown**

City Manager Wilmarth presented a request from the Downtown Development Authority to allow open container for an event on April 30, 2022 in Calvin Farmer Park. Open containers would only be allowed “on the bricks.”

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the request made by the Downtown Development Authority. Motion Unanimously Approved.

- b) **Consider Restructuring GMEBS Defined Benefit Plan**

A proposal to increase the funding of the City Defined Benefit Plan to 65% while at the same time purchasing three years of “buy back” for eligible employees that was employed prior to 2017. The cost of the buy back will be a one-time contribution of \$180,000.00 and will be paid out of reserved funds.

Council Member Nelson put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Prettyman to approve the proposal to restructure the City Defined Benefit Plan as outlined in the plan document. Motion Unanimously Approved.

- c) **Consider Request for Site Plan Review in accordance with City of Ball Ground Development Code 104.14E.1 Roberts Lake Dr./Farmers Crossing Land Lots 11, 3 District, 2nd Section Cherokee County**

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve the request site plan to increase the number of lots from eleven to eighteen for the Farmers Crossing Project in accordance with the City of Ball Ground Development Code, 104.14E.1.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- d) **Consider Request from Scott Lathem for increase in number of lots in Cowart Heights located on Cartersville St.**

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Stoner to table this item of business.

Mayor Roberts asked Council Member Rogers her reason for tabling this request. She stated that she would like to see a couple of the lots designated as park area as discussed at the council work session. Council Member Rogers asked Mr. Lathem to resubmit a plan making the lots into a park and not a dog park that would be for public use. She also stated that she would like for the developer to add a small pavilion along with picnic tables and swings. The park would allow for a green space for kids in the neighborhood to play.

The area would be maintained by the homeowner's association and not the city.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- e) **Consider An Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement for Cherokee County to Conduct City Elections**

City Manager Wilmarth stated the amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement states that Cherokee County will cover costs of elections when the City holds an election at the same time as a County, State, or Federal Election.

Council Member Nelson put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the amendment as stated in page 5, section 4, first paragraph to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Cherokee County to conduct elections for the City of Ball Ground.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- f) **Consider SunCap Property Group, LLC request for rezoning of 67.72 +/- acres from AG (General Agriculture) to LI (Light Industrial) at 6775 Ball Ground Hwy and 355S Sharp Mountain Church Ln.**

The applicant submitted a request to the Cherokee County Planning Commission to table their consideration of this item of business until their April meeting. Therefore, the City Council must also table their action until the case can be heard by the Cherokee County Planning Commission.

Council Member Stoner put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to table this item of business until the April City Council meeting.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 9: City Manager Comments

City Manager Wilmarth asked for council members to consider approval to advertise a public notice in the Cherokee Tribune of the intent to enter a land exchange agreement with Mr. Fred Bracket. In this proposed agreement the City would give 1,796 square feet of City property valued at \$8,713 to Fred Bracket, and in exchange would receive 1,800 square feet of property valued at \$8,712 from Fred Bracket.

Council Members unanimously agreed to the request stated by City Manager Wilmarth.

City Manager Wilmarth provided Council Members with an unaudited report of account balances, and statement of revenues and expenditures for the month ended February 28, 2022. The report showed cash on deposit totaled \$2,661,190.37.

Chief Reeves provided Mayor Roberts and Council Members with a written report of the Police Department's activity for the month ended February 28, 2022.

Item 10: Mayor Roberts Comments

Mayor Roberts stated he recently attended a meeting of the Cherokee Association of Realtors where he spoke to the group about Ball Ground. He said he had never received many complements about our city. Mayor Roberts said Ball Ground has changed so much over the years and that it is really the place to be.

Item 11: Council Comments

Item 12: Public Comments

- a) **Kyle Wolfel of 203 Lower Dove Ct. spoke in opposition to the SunCap Property Group, LLC request to rezone property located at 6775 Ball Ground Hwy and 355 S Sharp Mountain Church Ln.**

Item 13: Executive Session -None

Item 14: Adjourn

There being no further business for consideration Council Member Stoner put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Prettyman to adjourn at 8:10 PM. Motion Unanimously Approved.

The minutes of this March 10, 2022, City Council Meeting approved this 14th Day of April 2022.