

**DRAFT**



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

**MINUTES  
April 4, 2024**

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

**Council Members Present: Scott Barnes, Vicki Benefield, Annette Homiller, Dennis Nelson, and Kristine Rogers**

**Staff Present: Darrell Caudill, Donna England, Jamie Gianfala, Eric Wilmarth and Karen Jordan**

**Recognize Veteran of the Month - Council Member Dennis Nelson recognized Charles Carr as Veteran of the Month. A proclamation was presented to Mr. Carr along with a challenge coin for his service.**

**Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance Led by Veteran of the Month, Charles Carr.**

**Item 3: Approve Agenda**

**Council Member Homiller put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the agenda as submitted.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments - None**

**Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items**

**April 6 - BBQ & Brews**

**April 23 – Touch-A-Truck**

**May 11 – Ball Ground Garden Club Annual Plant Sale & Festival**

**May 25 – Concert in the Park**

**Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: March 14, 2024**

**Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024 meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Item 7: Old Business - None**

**Item 8: New Business**

**a) Consider Resolution Recognizing April 21-27, 2024 as Georgia Cities Week**

**Council Member Rogers put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member approve A Resolution designating April 31-27 as Georgia Cities Week in the City of Ball Ground.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved**

- b) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Council Members unanimously approved the proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

- c) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing April as Safe Digging Month**

Council Members unanimously approved the proclamation recognizing April as Safe Digging Month in the City of Ball Ground.

- d) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing April 14-20, 2024 as Georgia Garden Week**  
Council Members unanimously approved the proclamation recognizing April 14-20 as Georgia Garden Week in the City of Ball Ground.

- e) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing June 2-8, 2024 as National Garden Week in Georgia**

Council Members unanimously approved the proclamation recognizing June 2-8 as National Garden Week in the City of Ball Ground.

- f) **Consider Proclamation Recognizing April as Donate for Life Month**  
Council Members unanimously approved the proclamation recognizing April as Donate for Life Month in the City of Ball Ground.

- g) **Consider First Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Official Zoning Map of the City of Ball Ground for City-Initiated Rezoning of Various Parcels.**

Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the first reading of the above sated ordinance.

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

- h) **Consider First Reading of 2023-2024 FY Operating Budget**

The following 2024-2025 FY Budget was presented to council for consideration.

In the General Operating Fund Budget, the projected total revenue is \$2,224,192.00. This is an increase of 5.2% over the previous year.

SPLOST is expected to collect \$552,500 in revenue for the year. We are expecting an estimated decrease in revenue of 25.1%. This is due to Cherokee County BOC increasing a tier one project to approximately \$110,000,000. Funds for a tier one project are funded before the remaining funds are distributed to the cities or other designated projects.

The Water and Sewage Budget projected revenue of \$2,352,000.00. This is an increase of 3.32% over the previous year.

The budget anticipates a rate increase on all commercial/industrial buildings with fire service lines. Currently there is no charge for existing fire line connections. The fee will impact approximately 10 customers. The fee schedule will reflect a Fireline Connection Fee of \$50.00 per month.

The Storm Water Utility Fund anticipates an increase in revenue of \$61,220. This is a slight increase over the previous year.

The Solid Waste Fund anticipates the collection of \$345,206.00 in revenue for the coming year. A decrease in revenue is expected due to a change in the provider.

Included in the budget this year is the Impact Fee Fund. This is the first impact fees will be collected. It is anticipated that \$154,000.00 will be collected.

Budget totals are as follows:

General Fund	\$2,224,192.
Fire District Tax	\$ 652,280.
SPLOST	\$ 552,500.
Water/Sewer	\$2,352,000.
Storm Water	\$ 62,220.
Solid Waste	\$ 345,206.
Impact Fees	\$ 154,000.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,341,398.</b>

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the first reading of the 2024-2025 FY Budget as presented.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- i) Consider Renewal of IGA with Cherokee County for certain Animal Control Services as outlined in the IGA.  
Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Nelson to enter into a Municipal Services Agreement between City of Ball Ground and Cherokee County which stated the City of Ball Ground is desirous of procuring certain animal control ordinance and impoundment services from Cherokee County. As specified in the Ordinance the County agrees, through the County Marshal's Office, to provide services, as detailed in municipal animal control ordinance.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- j) Consider Adoption of Resolution to submit the draft Capital Improvements Element to the Atlanta Regional Commission for Regional and State review, as per the requirements of the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements
- k) Council Member Benefield put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the adoption of a Resolution to submit the draft Capital Improvements Element to the Atlanta Regional Commission for Regional and State review, as per the requirements of the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

#### Item 9: City Manager Comments

Chief Gianfala provided the Mayor and City Council with a report of the department's activities for the month ended March 31, 2024.

City Manager Wilmarth presented the mayor and council with an unaudited report of account balances and statement of revenue and expenditures for the month ended March 31, 2024.

City Manager Wilmarth provided the mayor and council with updates regarding ongoing projects in the city. Projects mentioned were:

Plans continue for the construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Hwy 5 and Howell Bridge Roads and the SR 372 Ball Ground Bypass.

Mountain Brook Sidewalk Project – work continues to secure easements for the project.

Solid Waste – Waste Pro will begin servicing residents on April 26, 2024.

Parks & Recreation – The downtown pocket park is nearing completion. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan is scheduled to go before Council at the May meeting.

Community Development – There was zero building permits issued for the month of March.

The Aylo Medical Building is scheduled to open on April 26, 2024.

**Item 10: Mayor Roberts**

Mayor Roberts commended Council Member Benefield, Barnes and Homiller for their participation in the upcoming governmental training classes.

**Item 11: Council Comments**

Council Members commented on how beautiful the parks and downtown areas are. They encouraged residents to take a walk around town to enjoy its beauty.

**Item 12: Public Comments**

Mr. Skip Parsons thanked the Water Department for their assistance in finding a water leak in his backyard.

**Item 13: Executive Session (If Needed)**

**Item 14: Adjourn**

There being no further business for consideration a motion was duly made by Council Member Benefield, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

The minutes of this meeting will be considered for approval at the May 11, 2024 City Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Karen L. Jordan