



DRAFT

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

MINUTES June 13, 2024

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Nelson in the absence of Mayor Roberts.

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

Staff Present: Chris Luly, Eric Wilmarth, Whit Frost, Jamie Gianfala, and Karen Jordan

- **Recognize Veteran of the Month – Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Nelson recognized Stephe Taylor Burt as Veteran of the Month. A proclamation was presented to Mr. Burt along with a challenge coin for his service.**

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance (Led by Veteran of the Month)

Item 3: Approve Agenda

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

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments

Commissioner Benny Carter appeared before the council to speak about Keep Cherokee Beautiful. Commissioner Carter stated that Cherokee County partnered with Keep Cherokee Beautiful, LLC, a not-for-profit, volunteer-led organization whose mission is to benefit our community through litter reduction, greater civic involvement, area beautification, education, and awareness of recycling opportunities. Currently, there are thirty-five plus groups, families and others that have adopted a mile of roadway to pick up litter. The Ball Ground Lions Club is one of the groups participating in the program. They adopted Valley Street to pick up litter three to four times a year. Commissioner Carter encouraged others to get involved in helping to keep Cherokee beautiful.

Mayor Pro Tem Nelson thanked Commissioner Carter for his work with the County Board of Commissioners and Keep Cherokee Beautiful.

Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items

June 19 – City Hall Closed

June 29 – Concert in the Park and Annual Fireworks Display

Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: May 9, 2024

Council Member Homiller put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024, Council Meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk. Motion Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2024 Special Called Meeting as submitted in writing by the City Clerk.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 7: Old Business

- a) Consider Second Reading of Request for Farm Winery License/Wine Consumption on Premises
Business: 1984 Brewing LLC/DBA Rock Solid Brewing Co.
Applicant: Christina Lauer
Location: 345 Gilmer Ferry Rd.

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

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 8: New Business

- a) Resolution Declaring June 10-14 as Municipal Court Clerks Week

Mayor Pro Tem Nelson read and presented a Resolution to Karla Weaver, Municipal Court Clerk recognizing the week of June 10-14 as Municipal Courts Week. Mayor Pro Tem Nelson further extended appreciation to Ms. Weaver for the vital services she performs and her exemplary dedication to the City of Ball Ground.

- b) Consider Adoption of Millage Rate for 2024 Property Tax

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

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- c) Consider Adoption of Fire Tax Millage Rate for 2024

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

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- d) Consider Declaring Community Center as Surplus Property

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to declare the Ball Ground Community Center as surplus property and to advertise the building for sale and removal on the Govdeals Government Auction Website.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- e) Consider an Amendment to Fee Schedule – Building Permit Fees

City Manager Wilmarth stated that upon review of HB 461 staff recommends an adjustment to the permit fee schedule. City Manager Wilmarth stated the intent

of the bill would cause revisions concerning the city's calculation of regulatory fees, specifically building inspection fees. The bill would eliminate the ability to calculate fees for renovation and other construction projects based on the cost of the project; but would expand the ability to use square footage in the fee calculation for extensive renovation projects (those totaling over \$75,000).

Planning Director Chris Luly proposed the Council consider a flat fee of \$1.25 per square foot of heated space and \$.75 per square foot of unconditioned space with a minimum fee of \$150.00. This fee would apply to both residential and commercial space.

Council Member Rogers put forward a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield, to accept the above-stated rates proposed by Planning Director Luly.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

Item 9: City Manager Comments

Police Chief Gianfala presented to the Council a report of the department's activity for the month of May. Chief Gianfala announced that the department would host Coffee With A Cop on June 19 at 10:00 AM at Barrel House Coffee. The department will also participate in an upcoming active shooter training course at one of the county schools.

City Manager Wilmarth congratulated Chris Luly on being named to the Top 10 in 10 "Young Professionals to Watch in Cherokee County." The program is designed to cultivate and showcase exceptional Cherokee County young professionals considered Cherokee's potential future leaders.

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

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

Preliminary work for the construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Hwy 5 and Howell Bridge Roads and the SR 372 Ball Ground Bypass has begun.

Nine of the ten easements needed to construct sidewalks on Old Dawsonville Road near the Mountain Brooke Subdivision have been acquired.

EPD has released requirements for all water systems to submit a Service Line Inventory by October 16, 2024. Service Line Inventories are the foundation from which water systems take action to address a significant source of lead in drinking water. Our Service Line Inventory has been completed and submitted to EPD.

The yearly Consumer Confidence Report, which provides our water customers with information about their local drinking water quality, has been released.

The downtown pocket park now known as City Connection is completed and home to weekend events.

A walking trail has been constructed around the pond in Calvin Farmer Park and a water fountain feature will soon be added to the pond.

Item 10: Mayor Roberts

Mayor Pro Tem Nelson stated that if you look at what goes on in the City, it shows that we have a very dedicated group of workers. The Water Department has had its share of challenges lately, but they have worked tirelessly to overcome whatever comes their way as well as all the staff.

Item 11: Council Comments

Council Members congratulated Chris on being named one of the Top 10 in 10 by the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce. Council Members also invited everyone to the fireworks event and to visit City Connection to enjoy one of the Unplugged Concerts.

Item 12: Public Comments

A resident of the Lantern Walk Subdivision asked the Council to do something about the intersection of the subdivision. She stated it was a hazard for pedestrians and cars as they go in and out of the subdivision and requested that a traffic control device be considered at the entrance. She ended by thanking the Council for their work.

The City Manager stated that it is a State Highway therefore the City is not allowed to do what it wants. The City has been in talks with the Georgia Department of Transportation to consider a traffic circle at the location. The City has also requested that GDOT do a Warrant Study. A Warrant Study was done. The results of the study showed that a traffic control device is not warranted but a traffic circle could be considered. This proposed project has been listed on the Capital Improvement Plan to be considered upon implementing Impact Fees.

Item 13: Executive Session (If Needed)

Item 14: Adjourn

There being no further business for consideration Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to adjourn at 8:11 PM.

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