



## DRAFT

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

#### MINUTES August 8, 2024

##### Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Nelson

##### Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

##### Item 3: Approve Agenda

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers, to approve the August 8 meeting agenda as submitted.

Motion Unanimously Approved

##### Item 4: Appearances/Public Comments

A resident of the Mountain Brooke Subdivision referenced the construction of a cement plant at the intersection of Old Nelson and Jordan Roads. He questioned the routes the trucks would be taking when leaving the facility.

Council Member Nelson replied to the resident the trucks he sees traveling Old Nelson Road turn right to access Ball Ground Hwy and he knows of nothing that would prohibit them from traveling Old Dawsonville Road if they chose to travel that way.

The resident asked if for some reason the trucks started traveling Old Dawsonville Road could a weight limit be imposed?

City Manager Wilmarth replied that we would have to contact GDOT to make that request.

The resident then questioned the access Pulte Homes has to a vacant lot in the Mountain Brook Subdivision.

City Manager Wilmarth stated the only access anyone would have to the property would be the Cherokee County Fire Department. The development will have more than 120 homes built. Per building codes, any development with more than 120 homes is required to have two points of ingress and egress. The vacant lot in question would have a Knox box with a key inside so in case of an emergency the fire department would have an alternative way to access the development other than the main entrance.

##### Item 5: Announcements/Informational Items

###### Upcoming Events

September 7 Art on Main

September 14 Whiskey Rose Concert

**Item 6: Consider Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2024**

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024 council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

**Item 7: Old Business**

- a) Consider Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Zoning Code Sec. 106.1 *Special Land Use Permits* and Sec. 104.18 *Permitted Land Uses and Conditions*, for the purpose of clarifying and expanding the special use permit process.

Council Member Rogers put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield, to approve the reading of the above-stated ordinance.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- b) Consider Annexation Petition for 1.0+/- acre at 1355 Old Canton Road

City Manager Wilmarth stated the property will be included in adjacent property for the future development of a small industrial park with four buildings to be constructed on the property.

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to approve the annexation of 1.0+/- acre identified as tax map and parcel 04N04B 008, Parcel Identification Number 04-0300-0002, Land Lo 309 of the 4<sup>th</sup> District, 2<sup>nd</sup> Section of Cherokee County, located at 1355 Old Canton Road. The current zoning is Light Industrial (LI).

Motion Unanimously Approved.

**Item 8: New Business**

- a) Consider Authorizing the City Manager to sign any/all documents related to a Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority Grant of \$70,000.00.

City Manager Wilmarth stated that \$35,000.00 of the grant funding will be used to reimburse the City for the purchase of a hydro excavator trailer that was purchased a year ago. The remaining \$35,000.00 of grant funds were to be used to replace lead service lines within the water system. The City Manager asked the council to reject this \$35,000.00 because there are only four homeowners who will require their lines to be replaced. This work can be done locally without using grant funds.

Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rogers to approve the acceptance of a \$35,000.00 grant from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority to reimburse the City for the purchase of a hydro excavator trailer and to reject the additional \$35,000.00 grant also from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

- b) Consider A Resolution to Enforce the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005 to declare all spaces owned, controlled, and maintained by the City of Ball Ground, such as parks, sidewalks, parking lots, and similar spaces in non-smoking areas and enforcement shall be in line with the penalties as specified in the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005.

Council Member Barnes put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Benefield to approve A Resolution to adopt and enforce the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005 and hereby declare all spaces owned, controlled, and maintained by the City, such as parks, sidewalks, parking lots and similar spaces as non-smoking areas and enforcement shall be in line with the penalties as specified in the Georgia Smokefree Act of 2005.

Motion Unanimously Approved.

**Item 9: City Manager Comments**

Chief Gianfala presented a report on the department's activity for the month ending July 31, 2024.

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 July 31, 2024.

City Manager Wilmarth provided updates on ongoing city projects. The projects mentioned were:

Actively obtaining easements and potentially accepting bids beginning September 15, 2024 for the Roundabout at the intersection of Hwy 5 and Howell Bridge Roads and the SR 372 Ball Ground Bypass.

SR 372 Spur/Bypass - This project involves the construction of a 2-lane roadway on new location from the intersection of Canton Highway/Hwy 5 at Howell Bridge Road to SR 372 (Ball Ground Road), near the intersection of Flatbottom Road, south of Ball Ground. This project will connect traffic from SR 372 (Ball Ground Road) to I-575 at the Howell Bridge Road interchange. The project is also referred to as the Ball Ground Bypass since it creates a bypass around downtown Ball Ground. The Georgia Department of Transportation recently awarded 4.339 million dollars for right-of-way acquisition. State Representative Rick Jasperse was instrumental in acquiring this funding.

Mountain Brooke Sidewalk Extension – We hope to begin accepting bids for this project on September 15, 2024. Anticipate construction of the sidewalks to begin late 2024 to early 2025.

**Item 10: Mayor Roberts**

**Item 11: Council Comments**

Council Member Nelson asked if anyone knew of a veteran to please nominate them for Veteran of the Month.

Council Members expressed their appreciation to Ashley Byrd, Downtown Manager, for her efforts in bringing new and exciting events downtown that entice people to come to see Ball Ground.

**Item 12: Public Comments**

**John Herrmann congratulated the Ball Ground Botanical Garden on being named the Best Park in Cherokee by the Cherokee Life Magazine.**

**Item 13: Executive Session**

**Item 14: Adjourn**

**There being no further business for consideration Council Member Benefield put forth a motion, Seconded by Council Member Homiller to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.**

**Motion Unanimously Approved.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Karen L. Jordan  
City Clerk**