



**CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2025**

Present: Mary Helen Lamb - Mayor
Dennis Cochran - Pro Tem
Peter Brown - Councilmember
Logan Patrick - Councilmember
Chris Lumpkin - Water Director
Lamar Rogers - Turnipseed Engineers
Kim Kirsch - City Clerk/City Manager
John Meier - City Attorney

Absent: Eddie Blackwell - Councilmember
Kristi Bosch - Councilmember
Michael Greene - Councilmember

- Item 1: Call to Order**
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb called the meeting to order, with a quorum present.
- Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance/Innovation**
Mayor Lamb led the Pledge to the Flag
- Item 3: Five Minute Public Hearing**
None
- Item 4: Consideration to Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes April 7, 2025**
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes for April 7, 2025. A motion was made by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Cochran, and approved by all members present.
- Item 5: Mr. Steve Swindell – Cherokee County Chief Appraiser to discuss HB581 & HB92**
Mr. Swindell discussed various options for HB581 & HB92. There are three scenarios: every municipality would report, none of the municipalities would report, or there could be a hybrid where some municipalities report and some of the municipalities do not. There will be no fire tax or bonds included in

these calculations. The question is, does the City of Waleska want to provide an estimated roll-back rate? Normally the county likes to have tax statements ready to go in May however this year due to HB581 & HB92 they may bump that date out a month due to software/billing/calculation preparations. It was suggested and decided that the City of Waleska will keep things as they are for now. The City of Waleska did opt-in to HB581 earlier in the year.

Item 6: Abbington Hall – Mr. Coogle & Mr. Holbert with Rea Ventures
This item was tabled as Mr. Coogle & Mr. Holbert were not able to attend tonight's council meeting.

Item 7: IGA with Cherokee County – repaving Grady St. (east side) & Byers St.
Mrs. Kirsch presented the council with a copy of the IGA drawn up by Cherokee County to resurface Grady Street (east side) and Byers Street. This was reviewed before the meeting by the city attorney, Mr. Meier. The total cost will be \$48,450.00. To date the City of Waleska has \$52,692.79 in LMIG funds available for these projects. Of that amount the 30% match would be \$8,689.76. A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Patrick, and approved by all members present to sign the IGA with Cherokee County to pave these streets.

Item 8: Derelict and Blighted Property Ordinance – sample
Mrs. Kirsch advised the council that she had reached out to Mr. Wilmarth, City Manager of Ball Ground, for a sample copy of what they recently approved. Due to several members of the council being absent it was decided to table this agenda item until the next meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Patrick, and approved by all members present.

Item 9: GA Fund 1 – investment of monies
Mrs. Kirsch had brought this topic before the council several weeks ago. She was asked to reach out to GA Fund 1 to see if the funds are FDIC insured. Mrs. Kirsch spoke with Mr. Perregaux at GA Fund 1 who advised here the funds are not FDIC insured; however, they work with all municipalities in the state of Georgia. As of January 31, 2025, GF1 assets were \$35.5 billion so this is a secure investment in Mrs. Kirsch's opinion. These funds are also liquid and can be withdrawn at any time. Currently the two CDs the city has earned around \$10.00 a year. With GF1 the city would earn around \$400.00 to \$500.00 based on last month's rates they provided. It was suggested that Mrs. Kirsch draft a letter for the mayor to sign and take it to United Community Bank and Regions Bank to close these CDs and invest that money in GF1. The total amount would be around \$12,000.00. A motion was made to close the CDs and invest that money in GF1 at the rate of 4.37% by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Patrick, and approved by all members present.

Item 10: Water System Report

- Mr. Rogers provided the council with a letter pertaining to the Abbingtion Hall project that provides them with a list of items that must be addressed.
- Mr. Lumpkin, Mrs. Kirsch, and Mr. Rogers discussed what needs to be done by the city to come up with an ordinance that addresses backflow prevention. This would be mainly directed at the large meters/commercial meters the city has currently and any that will be needed in the future. Mr. Rogers is assisting Mr. Lumpkin with a plan and detailed drawings as well as a sample ordinance from the City of Dahlonega. Mr. Lumpkin and Mrs. Kirsch will work on this and update the council over the coming weeks.
- Mr. Lumpkin discussed the homeowner of 480 Huey Barnes Lane who wants to run the city water line to their new home. The homeowner is willing to run the line down the right-of-way to where they will set their water meter which is close to 500 feet. It was stated by Mr. Cochran that Mr. Rogers/Turnipseed Engineers will have to inspect, and the homeowner will be required to pay that fee. Mrs. Kirsch will get the cost from Mr. Rogers and let the homeowner know they are required to have an inspection and pay the fee.

Item 11: City Manager's Report

- Mrs. Kirsch updated the council that she had emailed the homeowner of 184 Forest Glen Dr. about his zoysia turf being replaced from where it was damaged during a water leak repair several months ago. Mrs. Kirsch also spoke with the landscape company to confirm the best time to plant the zoysia. It was agreed upon by the homeowner, the landscaper and Mrs. Kirsch that the best time to replace the zoysia would be mid-May. Mrs. Kirsch has a reminder on her calendar and will see to it this is taken care of.
- Mrs. Kirsch provided the council with house plans for 2200 & 2226 Upper Burris Road. The council agreed the city could sell the builder the water meters and these plans could proceed to Cherokee County for the permitting process.
- Mrs. Kirsch handed out a copy of the GMA's District 3 North Officers for 2025 – 2027 Ballot. Everyone agreed the city would vote yes to having Bill Grant, Mayor, Canton as President and Melody Kelley, Councilmember, Sandy Springs as Vice President. Mrs. Kirsch will have the mayor sign the ballot and email back to GMA tomorrow.

Item 12: City Attorney's Report

- Mr. Meier reported to the council that he is waiting for an IGA with Cherokee County on a 75-acre site on Cable Road which would have 50 home sites.

Item 13: Mayor's Report

Madam Mayor reported that she was approached by a homeowner in the city about homes on Darby Road having driveway access to that main road. They were concerned with so many new homes on that road, development, and feel there is too much traffic.

Item 14: Council Remarks

None

Item 15: Adjourn Regular Council Meeting

APPROVED THIS 5th DAY OF May, 2025.

Mary Helen Lamb
Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest: Kim Kirsch
Kim Kirsch, City Clerk