



CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Present:

Mary Helen Lamb – Mayor

Dennis Cochran – Pro Tem

Walt Cook – Councilmember

Eddie Blackwell – Councilmember

Peter Brown – Councilmember

Michael Greene – Councilmember

Lauren Garrett – City Clerk

Brandon Bowen– City Attorney

Lamar Rogers – Engineer

Absent:

Kristi Bosch – Councilmember

Chris Lumpkin – Water Maintenance Manager

Item 1: Call to Order

Mayor Mary Helen Lamb called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Item 2: Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was delivered, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3: Five-Minute Public Input

A resident on Grady Street addressed the Council regarding an ongoing rodent problem at her residence. She stated that the issue began approximately one year ago and that rodents have entered her crawl space, damaged the encapsulation, entered HVAC ductwork, and gained access to portions of her home.

The resident expressed concern that conditions on a neighboring rental property may be contributing to the problem. She described multiple accessory structures and accumulated materials located there.

Council discussed whether the condition of the neighboring property may constitute a code violation and whether the structures were properly permitted. It was determined that the Marshal's Office would be contacted to inspect the property and determine whether any violations exist. City staff will provide the resident with an update following the inspection.

Item 4: Consideration to Approve the Regular Council Meeting August 3, 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell to approve the called meeting minutes of August 3, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Yard of the Month

Council considered 552 Grady Street for Yard of the Month.

A motion was made by Councilmember Greene and seconded by Councilmember Cochran to select 552 Grady Street as Yard of the Month. The motion carried.

Item 6: Old Business

- **Darby Road Streetlights / Streetlight Fee**

Lauren Garrett the City Clerk provided an update regarding the Darby Road streetlight matter. Staff reviewed applicable City ordinances, subdivision information, plats, and available records regarding the development of Hawks Crest.

The City Clerk reported that she had spoken with an engineer from Amicalola EMC. Existing utility poles are available along the roadway, allowing streetlights to be installed without an

installation charge to the City. The monthly cost would be approximately \$12.50 per streetlight, and lights could be placed approximately 120 feet apart within the City limits.

Brandon Bowen the City Attorney discussed the existing ordinance language regarding streetlight districts and approved residential developments. Council discussed amending the ordinance to make the language consistent with the City's current practice of collecting a streetlight fee from property owners to offset the cost of streetlights along main thoroughfares.

Council discussed installing three streetlights along Darby Road.

A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell and seconded by Councilmember Cochran to proceed with the installation of three streetlights on Darby Road. The motion carried.

The City Attorney will prepare an amendment to the City's streetlight ordinance for future consideration.

- **Puckett Road Water Usage/Bill**

The City Clerk provided the requested follow-up regarding the disputed water bill for a resident on Puckett Rd. Staff reviewed the City's water purchase invoices and the customer's billing history; however, because the City's wholesale water billing cycle does not align with the customer's billing cycle, a direct comparison could not reliably determine the source of the disputed usage.

The City Clerk reported that a review of the customer's historical usage showed that the disputed usage was significantly higher than previous usage.

Council discussed the meter data, the possibility of a leak or meter irregularity, the customer's historical usage, and potential methods for determining an equitable adjustment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell and seconded by Councilmember Greene to provide an in-house adjustment based on historical summer usage during periods when chickens were present. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Discussion – Goat and Chicken Ordinance**

The City Clerk provided an update regarding a resident's request to keep backyard chickens and goats on residential property.

The City's current ordinance requires a minimum of two acres and generally allows one livestock animal per acre. Staff also reviewed Cherokee County's regulations, which

contain additional provisions for backyard poultry, including restrictions related to the number of hens, roosters, and enclosures.

Council discussed whether the City's ordinance should be updated to more closely align with Cherokee County regulations, particularly regarding backyard chickens and goats.

Council directed staff to continue reviewing the County's regulations and potential ordinance amendments.

Item 7: Water System Report

The City Engineer Lamar Rogers reported that the Sardis Circle project had been submitted to the appropriate agencies for review. Once County approval is received, the project can proceed.

The status of the necessary easement was also discussed. Attempts to reach the appropriate property owner regarding the easement had not yet been successful.

Council was advised that water service in the Sardis Circle area had been restored.

Council received an update regarding Abington Hall. The infrastructure work was reported to have been constructed appropriately. Water service will not be activated until all outstanding invoices have been paid.

The City Engineer discussed upcoming planning requirements associated with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, including updates to the City's Water Master Plan and Asset Management Plan.

A grant opportunity of up to approximately \$150,000, requiring a 10% local match, was discussed. Because the application deadline will occur before the next Council meeting, authorization was requested to proceed with the application.

A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell and seconded by Councilmember Greene to authorize Lamar Rogers/Turnipseed Engineers to apply for the grant to assist with the required water planning updates. The motion carried.

Additional discussion was held regarding the water line extension project and reimbursement associated with the subdivision development.

Item 8: City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk reported that Savannah Hulsey had been hired for the Utility Clerk position at a starting rate of \$18.00 per hour and would begin employment the following Monday.

The City Clerk noted that Ms. Hulsey has previous office management and customer service experience and resides locally.

Item 9: City Attorney's Report

The City Attorney reported receiving an updated plat by email and advised that it would be forwarded to the City.

Item 10: Mayor's Report

Mayor Mary Helen Lamb discussed continuing the City's annual September 11 dinner. The City will provide the meat, drinks, and paper products, with participants bringing accompanying dishes. Staff will coordinate the event and prepare the necessary flyer.

Mayor Lamb also discussed the City's annual Christmas Tree Lighting and asked that the event be placed on the City calendar for December 3, 2026.

Item 11: Council Remarks

Council discussed whether outside public or private entities are required to obtain City authorization before installing Flock cameras or speed-detection cameras within the City limits.

The City Attorney explained that authority may depend upon the ownership of the right-of-way. Cameras located within State rights-of-way would generally fall under State authority, while installations within City rights-of-way may involve City authority.

No formal action was taken.

Item 12: Adjournment of Regular Council Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Greene and seconded by Councilmember Cochran to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

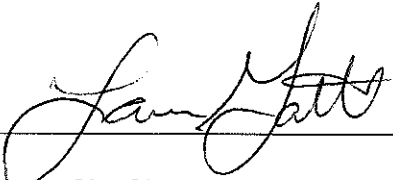
The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED THIS 8 DAY OF September, 2026.



Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest



Lauren Garrett, City Clerk