



**CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2024**

Present: Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor
Kristi Bosch, Councilmember
Peter Brown, Councilmember
Logan Patrick, Councilmember
Michael Greene, Councilmember
Eddie Blackwell, Councilmember
Dennis Cochran, Pro Tem
Kim Kirsch, City Clerk/Manager
Chris Lumpkin, Water Maintenance
Lamar Rogers, Turnipseed Engineers
John Meier, City Attorney (via phone)
Kevin Purcell with Kendall Supply Inc.

Absent: Tacie Jo Bracken - CPA

- 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: Holiday Schedule 2025**
- The holiday schedule for 2025 was presented to the Mayor and Council. A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Cochran, and approved by all members present.
- Item 5: Council Meeting Dates for 2025**
- The council meeting dates for 2025 were presented to the Mayor and Council. A motion was made by Councilmember Bosch, seconded by Councilmember Green, and approved by all members present.

Item 6: Consideration to Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes November 4, 2024

Mayor Mary Helen Lamb asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes for November 4, 2024. A motion was made by Councilmember Green, seconded by Councilmember Cochran, and approved by all members present.

Item 7: Consideration to repeal Code: Sec. 16-50. Weapons; discharge in city, third reading.

City attorney, John Meier, discussed with council the language that needed to be voted on to change the current ordinance. Mr. Meier was uncertain about what the council wanted at the November 4, 2024, meeting. He stated there was confusion on his part as to rather the council wanted to repeal the old ordinance or change it. The council reviewed what Mr. Meier had prepared. A motion was made by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Brown to approve the resolution Mr. Meier discussed. There will be a fourth reading on January 6, 2025.

Item 8: Water Rates

- Kim Kirsch presented water loss numbers to the council as well as a water rate increase of 5% based on the analysis of the water fund by Ms. Bracken. The suggestion to the Mayor and Council was to increase the water rates by 5% for 2025, starting January 1st. After reviewing the water loss reports it was decided to not increase water rates at this time. There was discussion as to the accuracy of the water loss reports. Mrs. Kirsch and Mr. Lumpkin are going to do some field research and engage with Mr. Purcell with Kendall Supply as they are the company the city uses for the meter reading data. The city should have enough data by the next council meeting to drill down on accurate water loss. The mayor suggested this be revisited in a few months after the staff comes back with more data and analysis.
- Kim Kirsch presented an increase of 5% for sanitation rates based on analysis of the account by Ms. Bracken. A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Cochran, and approved 5 to 1 with Ms. Bosch opposing any increase at this time.

Item 9: Kevin Purcell with Kendall Supply – Silver Creek Water Tank AMI/Cherokee County

- Mr. Purcell discussed with the Mayor and Council that Cherokee County Water and Sewer wants to install Sensus AMI meter reading technology in locations around Cherokee County GA. They would like to install one of these stations in the Salacoa area which would be the city's Silver Creek Water Tank. The county is interested in a three month "pilot period". If the City of Waleska allowed CCWSA to install this, it would help down the road if Waleska decided to go to the AMI system. The

cost for the installation is \$95k per tank. This amount is not currently in the city's budget. The decision was that the city will require an IGA with CCWSA for a three-month pilot period in relation to the Silver Creek Water Tank. Mr. Purcell will draft an IGA to present to CCWSA and the city will also have our Attorney, Mr. Meier, review that IGA before we take an official vote on allowing the installation.

Item 10: Tacie Jo Bracken – update on amended budget, update on ARPA and SLFRF unobligated funds deadline.

- Ms. Bracken was not able to attend the meeting, so Mrs. Kirsch presented data and documents given to her by Ms. Bracken. The amended budget was presented to the Mayor and Council and approved by the council.
- Mrs. Kirsch updated the Mayor and Council on the obligated funds for ARPA/SLFRF. The deadline for that is the end of year so the city has met that deadline.

Item 11: Water System Report

- Mr. Rogers updated the Mayor and Council of the additional OPB funding for the Highway 140 water line replacement. The amount has been increased to \$1,729,507.70. Mr. Rogers will start obtaining bids in January with an ETA of construction starting in the spring of 2025.
- Mr. Rogers stated we are waiting for the funds for the newly awarded GEFA loan/grant for the lead copper investigation. The loan was approved with a 20-year term at 3.250%. This is a requirement by the EPD.

Item 12: City Manager's Report

- Mrs. Kirsch updated council on code enforcement questions
 1. The tiny home/ADU at 6497 Reinhardt College Pkwy. has been removed.
 2. The new home being built on Bartow Steet does meet the minimum front setbacks for Cherokee County.
 3. The home located at 6865 Reinhardt College Parkway did receive a stop work order from Cherokee County for being over the minimum square footage for an ADU. The renters that live there told Mrs. Kirsch they do have permission to construct this building from the homeowners. They are going to scale the footprint down to 120 square feet so as not to be out of compliance with the City's code of ordinance.
 4. There have been several reports filed with the Cherokee County Marshal's office over the condition of the home located at 7045 Reinhardt College Parkway. The last communication Mrs. Kirsch received was that the only violation is the tall grass. Mrs. Kirsch emailed back to the Marshal's office as to the concern of the condition of the home, its roof, windows, and general state. We do

have a good mailing address for the owner and that was also sent to the Marshal's office.

- Mrs. Kirsch updated Mayor and Council that Reinhardt University had reached out to her and Cherokee County to work together on a grant that would make the city a more "walkable" place. Mrs. Kirsch will coordinate with Dr. Robert's and Cherokee County after the first of the year and update the council on those plans and the grant funds/process.
- Mrs. Kirsch updated the Mayor and Council that she had taken several webinars on grants/grant writing. Ms. Bosch has provided her with several avenues to pursue to help in this area.
- Mrs. Kirsch updated the Mayor and Council that the installation of a sample tap on the Lower Burris storage tank has been completed. There was a sample taken and that did pass the EPD's requirements.
- Mrs. Kirsch informed the Mayor and Council that the backflow test at Worley Road passed. The backflow test at Land Road failed. Because of the failure the city will have to replace this backflow. The city has received two quotes and did approve the one from Stanco for \$14,275.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Patrick, and approved by all members present.
- Mrs. Kirsch informed the council that she and the mayor had attended a meeting with members of the Cherokee County Legislative Delegation. There is an ongoing discussion about HOST vs. SPLOST. The city will need to decide whether to opt in or opt out. The council will be kept informed as these discussions continue.
- There is a property owner on Ash Ridge Road that wishes to be on the city's water. This homeowner brought Mrs. Kirsch a letter signed by two of his neighbors giving him authorization to go through their property to tap into the line at the end of the road. The Mayor, Council, and Attorney all agreed he will have to have an easement for each property before that water line can be approved. He has been told this by staff at city hall. Mrs. Kirsch will let him know this will be a requirement.

Item 13: City Attorney's Report

- Mr. Meier updated the Mayor and Council that the deed for Habitat had been signed.
- Mr. Meier informed the Mayor and Council that he has made multiple attempts via phone calls and emails in relation to TIG Custom Homes – 60% method annexation. No one will return his calls or emails. The city cannot move forward with the annexation until there is a signed owner's consent.

Item 14: Mayor's Report

- The mayor plans on having a staff meeting at city hall this week. An update will be given during the executive session at the next council meeting on January 6, 2025.

Item 15: Council Remarks

- None

Item 16: Adjourn Regular Council Meeting

APPROVED THIS 6th DAY OF January, 2025

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Kirsch

Kim Kirsch, City Clerk