



**CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2021**

Present: Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor
Paul Ice, Pro Tem
Kristi Bosch, Councilmember
Dennis Cochran, Councilmember
Lee Lamb, Councilmember
Jon Costales, Councilmember
Vickie Boswell, Councilmember
Robyn Smith, City Clerk/Manager
Stanley Townsend, Townsend Pipeline
John Meier, City Attorney
Lamar Rogers, Turnipseed Engineers

Item 1: Call to Order
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb, called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

Item 2: Pledge to the Flag
Mayor Lamb led the Pledge to the Flag

Sharon Romano spoke about a leak at her house (438 Bartow St.) for the 3rd time and is causing mold into her house. Council responded that this would be investigated.

Kevin Ellington spoke on behalf of the meters at 805 Darby Rd. still has not been set. Stanley Townsend reported that the guy that does the boring called and was supposed to be on sight today, but never came. Hopefully he will show up on Tuesday.

Item 3: Review and Approval of Minutes from August 30, 2021 Meeting
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 30, 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Boswell, and approved by all members present.

Item 4: Proclamation Constitution Week
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb presented the Proclamation Constitution Week.

Item 5: North Georgia Angel House, Inc. – Susan Worsley

Ms. Susan Worsley, the director of North Georgia Angel House, Inc. (Angel House) spoke to the Councilmembers expressing concerns arising out of a transaction in May of 2019 when Angel House obtained a grant from Cherokee County Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) to provide funds to enable a portion of the City of Waleska's Water Service Area (WSA) to be conveyed to the City of Canton (Canton). The conveyance was believed by Ms. Worsley to be necessary to enable the sewer system installed by Angel House on its property to be connected into Canton sanitary sewer system. Grant funds totaling \$27,000 was paid to the City of Waleska (Waleska) in May of 2019. The amount paid was determined, in part, based on estimated lost revenue associated with the portion of Waleska's WSA being conveyed to Canton. The estimated lost revenues were based on the average monthly consumption of water by Angel House and were limited to a 10-year period. About a year and a half after the conveyance to Canton, the WSA on which Angel House was located was returned to Waleska's WSA as part of a negotiated settlement reached between Canton and Waleska resolving issues between the two municipalities concerning each of their respective Water Service Areas. The December 2020 settlement was made as part of the comprehensive Service Delivery Strategy Agreement (SDS) between Cherokee County and all the municipalities within Cherokee County. Part of the SDS Agreement included coordination of water and sewer services by those providing such services within Cherokee County and included the adoption of a new WSA map by all parties to the Agreement. It was Angel House's position that the CDBG grant funds paid to Waleska in 2019 should now be returned to the taxpayers of Cherokee County or, alternatively, used to provide credit for future water services used by Angel House. It was determined that no one from Cherokee County's CDBG program attended the meeting. After much discussion about the source of funding for the payment and proposed options, the Waleska City Council instructed its City Attorney to contact Cherokee County to determine if actions taken by Canton, Angel House, and Waleska in May of 2019 created problems for Cherokee County's CDBG program, taking into consideration that part of the method used to calculate the payment to Waleska was based on estimated lost future revenue for Waleska for 10 years and the fact that the WSA on which Angel House was located had been returned to Waleska in December of 2020.

Waleska City Councilmembers express concerns about defamatory comments made by Ms. Worsley in emails she sent Geoff Morton, Cherokee County Manager, and other Angel House board members on August 31, 2021. During the discussion about the emails, Ms. Worley was questioned specifically about comments she made alleging unethical practices and actions she believes to be criminal in nature. The comments were quoted from Ms. Worsley emails in which she specifically named Waleska's Mayor Mary Helen Lamb and City Clerk Robyn Smith. Ms. Worsley reported she did not find the comments offensive. Councilmembers expressed concern about the amount of ill will expressed by Ms. Worsley and Angel House board members against Waleska and its Mayor and

City Clerk. After further discussion during which no efforts were made by Ms. Worsley or other Angel House board members to withdraw or apologize for the defamatory comments, the discussions were concluded.

Item 6: Review and Approval of Waleska Animal Care Sign

After discussion, council decided that we need a variance application. City Manager will contact Waleska Animal Care for this.

Item 7: Discussion for Liquor Package Sales

Mayor Mary Helen Lamb asked for a motion to approve for Liquor Package Sales to be put on the next ballot in May. A motion was made by Councilmember Lee Lamb, seconded by Councilmember Cochran, and approved by all members present.

Item 8: Water System Report

- Stanley Townsend reported that it will be at least 6 months out for a meter to be installed. Council suggested that the City Manager write up a letter stating that we do not have a time frame for a meter to be sent and have the customer sign it.
- Several leaks in the city have been repaired. Lamar Rogers had pricing for South Fincher Rd., at \$435,000 and North Fincher Rd. at \$140,000, and will do RFP to replace lines and leak on Fincher Rd.
- Mountain Crest Rd. leaks were fixed. There was 15 pin holes in 15ft of line. There are possibly 8 services leaking there.
- Suggested we need to think about installing the meters that are programmed 1 gallon, afraid it will be a mess.
- Lamar Rogers will contact UWS about paving at Valero and Hair Shop.
- Lamar Rogers quoted a tentative quote for Byars St. at \$57,000, Bartow Rd. at \$169,000 and Lee St at \$30,000. Mayor asked for a motion to move forward with using the rest of the grant money to do these projects. We have about \$230,000 left, so we will pay the balance.
- Lamar Rogers stated that the McCoy tank cleaning was moved to another time, still need more information from city. Lamar will also get us a quote for a GPS for locations.
- Lamar Rogers also quoted to replace lines on South Fincher
- Stanley Townsend reported that he talked to the owner at Fate Conn., and they will look at GPS to see if they can do an encroachment easement.

Item 9: City Manager Report

- Reported that we were denied the Septic to Sewer Grant
- IPADS are on order.
- Code Enforcement reported that the house at 7045 Reinhardt was not an unfit dwelling.
- Asked about starting the lines for Old McCoy Pl, Stanley will investigate it.

Item 10: City Attorney's Report

- Got confirmation on the GEFA loan papers that the City Manager's name can be marked through and the Mayor can sign to the side
- He will be responding to the open records request from Mandy Boring with BKB Law Firm.

Item 11: Mayor's Report

- Thanked everyone that participated and brought food for the 911 dinner.
- Reinhardt has asked to provide a letter for the GEER II Grant
- Mayor asked about whether the loan gun was working, city manager stated that as far as she knew it was. Haven't heard any complaints.
- Mayor asked Stanley Townsend had he decided on his future plans, he stated not at this time. She reported that herself, Stanley, and the city manager met after the last council meeting, and it had been decided that Townsend Pipeline would make a Waleska Water Book to show where valves in the city are. Stanley reported that doing another contract the prices will increase because those prices are 30 years old.

Item 12: Council Remarks

No Report.

Item 13: Adjourn Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Lamb asked for a motion to adjourn the council meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Bosch, seconded by Councilmember Boswell, and approved by all members present.

APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF September, 2021.

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest:

Robyn Smith

Robyn Smith, City Clerk