



**CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2026**

Present: Mary Helen Lamb - Mayor
Dennis Cochran - Pro Tem
Eddie Blackwell – Councilmember
Kristi Bosch - Councilmember
Peter Brown – Councilmember
Michael Greene - Councilmember
Kim Kirsch - City Clerk/City Manager
Lamar Rogers - Engineer
Kathryn Hurley - City Attorney

Absent:

- Item 1: Call to Order**
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb called the meeting to order, with a quorum present.
- Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation**
Mayor Lamb led the Pledge to the Flag. Councilmember Greene delivered the invocation.
- Item 3: Five Minute Public Hearing**
None
- Item 4: Consideration to Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes January 19, 2026**
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes for January 19, 2026. A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Greene, and approved by all members present.
- Item 5: 2025 Audit – JAT Consulting**
Mrs. Bemby presented the 2025 audit to the council. Murphy CPA was also present to accept any questions from the council. The audit produced two “Material” items. The first being Internal Control. As Mrs. Bemby explained: Material Weakness - reasonable possibility that a material mistreatment will no be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis – NONE REPORTED. Significant Deficiency – Deficiency in internal control important to merit attention

by those charged with governance: Segregation of Duties – Due to the size of the city’s administration, total segregation of duties is not practical. The city has contracted with third-qualified professionals to help mitigate this risk. Mrs. Bemby then discussed the second “Material” item. Compliance – Material Budget Violation – Public Works \$108,434 (no budget adopted). This was a housekeeping item that did slip through during the change of management and the change of financial consultants for the city. This will be resolved in the 2026 budget. A motion was made to accept and approve the 2025 audit by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Greene and approved by all members present.

Item 6: Cell Tower – Discussion

Mrs. Kirsch presented documentation sent to her by Trileaf environmental architecture engineering. Mrs. Kirsch shared this with Mr. Bowen at a meeting on the 22nd of January. At that meeting, along with the mayor the location of the proposed cell tower was discussed. There was concern about the location of the cell tower at Cline Park. The city council agreed that the location is not acceptable. Mrs. Kirsch will work with Mr. Bowen on this matter and report back to the council.

Item 7: Increase Spending Limit – City Manager

The council discussed increasing Mrs. Kirsch’s spending, which is currently \$300.00. The decision was made that for the General Fund Mrs. Kirsch’s limit would be \$2,500.00, the mayor’s limit for this fund will be \$5,000.00, anything over that will go to the council for approval. For the Water Fund Mrs. Kirsch’s limit will be \$5,000.00, the mayor’s limit for this fund will be \$10,000.00, anything over that will go to the council for approval. Mr. Bowen will draft an ordinance and present that to the council at the next meeting for the first reading. There will be two readings before the ordinance is passed.

Item 8: GA Power Easement – 617 Byrd Mtn. Ln.

Mrs. Kirsch presented an easement prepared by GA Power to the council for approval. This is for a power pole to be installed near the city’s Byrd Mountain tank. This project was previously approved by city council in order to run power to the tank’s location and install heat tape/trace in the box containing the SCADA system. A motion was made to approve the signing of the easement by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Greene and approved by all members present.

Item 9: Council Meeting – September Change of Dates

Mrs. Kirsch requested that the date of the first council meeting in September be moved from the 7th to the 14th due to the Labor Day holiday. A motion was made to change the meeting date to the 14th by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Greene and approved by all members present.

Item 10: Cross-Connection Ordinance/Policy – Water System

Mrs. Kirsch presented a “draft” ordinance provided by Turnipseed Engineers in 2024 which lays out the Cross-Connection details. Mr. Rogers discussed the specifics of why this is in the best interest of the city’s water system. Mr. Lumpkin

suggested having backflows installed on all irrigation meters as well. Councilmember Cochran suggested putting a timeline of one year for any large meter backflow installations due to cost for the customer. Mr. Rogers also stated these backflows will need to be tested annually. Mrs. Kirsch had reached out to T. Stanco and verified that they are installing backflows on all new residential meters. It was agreed that an ordinance should be adopted. Mrs. Kirsch will work with Mr. Bowen and Mr. Rogers and hopefully have a first reading at the next council meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran to have an ordinance prepared by Mr. Bowen, seconded by Councilmember Brown and approved by all members present.

Item 11: Water Report

- Mrs. Kirsch provided the water loss report for the council. The water loss report indicated an 18.12% loss.
- Mr. Lumpkin and Mrs. Kirsch continued the discussion on the water meter that is shared with the City of Canton. Mr. Lumpkin received a quote for \$13,850.00 from Kendall Supply to replace the meter. This meter does not require as much straight pipe to have accurate readings. Mrs. Kirsch has reached out to T. Stanco about installing enough straight pipe outside of the vault. Mr. Lumpkin will continue to work with Mr. Rogers to come up with the most cost-effective option for the city.
- Mr. Rogers updated the council on the change order he submitted for the 8" line for the Hwy. 108 project. That was approved by RSM. RSM said a budget adjustment is not necessary for this project change. Mr. Rogers will keep the council updated on this project in the coming months.
- Mrs. Kirsch presented an estimated cost from T. Stanco for laying a 6" pipe starting at Hwy. 140 to Sardis Cir., to Sardis Rd. at which time it would then be a 4" pipe from Sardis Rd. to Theodore Cox for between \$210,000 - \$225,000. Previously the council had asked for a 2" line from Sardis Cir. to a short distance up Sardis Road for a customer that is building a new home. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Lumpkin discussed that there are now 21 homes on Sardis Circle, and it would be worth looking into a larger line due to the number of lots being developed on Sardis Circle, Sardis Road, and Theodore Cox. The council instructed Mrs. Kirsch to have T. Stanco bid 6" line for Sardis Road. Mrs. Kirsch will work with Mr. Lumpkin and T. Stanco and bring this back to the council. Mrs. Kirsch did reach out to the owner building the new home on Sardis Road and that home will not be completed for 8-9 months.
- Mrs. Kirsch, along with Mr. Lumpkin and Rogers's discussed a meeting they had with GA Rural Water last week. GA Rural Water advised Mrs. Kirsch that they can do a rate study for the water system. They will start once Turnipseed has completed the water audit. Mrs. Kirsch reached out to Mr. Hollie at Turnipseed as to when the water audit will be complete. That audit will be completed in a couple of weeks at which time Mrs. Kirsch will then start working with GA Rural Water for a rate study to bring back to city council. Mr. Rogers also suggested

that GA Rural Water assist with a couple of other annual reports. Since City of Waleska is a member of GA Rural Water these services are provided at no cost.

- Mrs. Kirsch will also be working with GA Rural Water to have most or all large meters tested. There is an independent contractor that works with GA Rural Water that will provide a bid which Mrs. Kirsch will bring to the next council meeting.
- Councilmember Greene has been in contact with the owner of 2970 Pleasant Arbor Road. The owner told Mr. Greene that he did receive his bill which was \$0.00 but is concerned because the read was back to 508,000. Mrs. Kirsch explained that she worked with Tyler during the billing process and because the read had gone from 508,000 to 515,000 for him to not be billed, she had to take it back to 508,000. A decision was made to change out this meter. Mrs. Kirsch had asked if this was not the best option when this was first brought to the attention of Councilmember Greene and Kendall Supply said do not replace the meter as replacing the meter will not solve the problem. Mr. Lumpkin will get this meter replaced in the new few days and update Mrs. Garrett as to that read.
- Mr. Lumpkin requested to repair an old blue poly line on Clayton Trail. The distance is around 40 feet. Mr. Lumpkin repaired a leak on the city's side but feels this line will have more issues soon. The city council approved Mr. Lumpkin can spend up to \$10,000.00 to replace this section of line. A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Greene and approved by all members present.

Item 12: City Manager's Report

- Mrs. Kirsch presented house plans for 1021 Cable Road. The city council agreed that the builder can proceed to Cherokee County for the rest of the permitting process.
- Mrs. Kirsch updated the city council on the special election. Mr. Cook was the only person that came in to qualify. Cherokee County Elections reached out to Mrs. Kirsch and advised her to wait an additional 7 days for any write-in applications. If none are received the election will be cancelled and Mr. Cook will be the new councilmember for post 6.
- Mrs. Kirsch requested a Sanitation Rate study be completed by Momentum Results. The estimate for that was between \$1,750.00 to \$2,625. Mrs. Kirsch has been in contact with Waste Pro who decided to increase the rate for sanitation by 4.7%. Mrs. Kirsch is preparing for the 2026 – 2027 budget. The council declined hiring Momentum Results for this rate study and instructed Mrs. Kirsch to come up with any necessary rate increases.
- Mrs. Kirsch was approached by the City's bank institution in reference to having Positive Pay on all city banking accounts. The cost would be \$55.00 per account per month. The city has five banking accounts. The city council felt like this is too much money and instructed Mrs. Kirsch to investigate other options such as LifeLock. Mrs. Kirsch will come back with more information.

Item 13: City Attorney's Report
None

Item 14: Mayor's Report

- Madam Mayor stated that she would like for Mrs. Kirsch to reach out to Kendall Supply about replacing the city's salesman/representative. Mrs. Kirsch will do this and report back to the city council.

Item 15: Council Remarks
None

Item 16: Adjourn Regular Council Meeting
A motion was made to adjourn regular council meeting by Councilmember Greene, seconded by Councilmember Bosch and approved by all members present.

APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF February, 2026.

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Kirsch

Kim Kirsch, City Clerk