CITY OF WALESKA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Present:

Mary Helen Lamb – Mayor

Dennis Cochran – Pro Tem

Walt Cook – Councilmember

Eddie Blackwell – Councilmember

Kristi Bosch – Councilmember

Brandon Bowen– City Attorney

Lauren Garrett – City Clerk

Chris Lumpkin – Water Maintenance Manager

Absent:

Michael Greene – Councilmember

Peter Brown – Councilmember

Lamar Rogers – Engineer

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: Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item 3: Consideration to Approve the Regular Council Meeting October 5, 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran and seconded by Councilmember Cook to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2026, Regular Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Five Minute Public Input

None.

Item 5: Consideration to Adopt the Amendment to the City of Waleska Street Lighting Ordinance

The motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell and seconded by Council Member Cochran to adopt Amendment to the City of Waleska Street Lighting Ordinance. The motion passed.

Item 6: First Reading – Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article V, Purchasing

The first reading of the ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article V, Purchasing, of the City Code was conducted.

Council briefly discussed the proposed purchasing limits and whether adjustments would be appropriate for the City's operational needs, including the water system.

No action was taken.

Item 7: Consideration and Possible Adoption of City Vehicle and Equipment Use Policy

City Clerk Lauren Garrett presented the proposed Vehicle and Equipment Use Policy, outlining procedures for the authorized use, maintenance, cleanliness, and operation of City-owned vehicles and equipment.

The policy addresses take-home vehicle authorization, fuel cards, GPS tracking, traffic violations, accidents, employee responsibilities, and prohibited activities.

Council discussed requiring immediate drug testing following any accident involving City vehicles or equipment and maintaining appropriate vehicle cleanliness.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran and seconded by Councilmember Bosch to approve the Vehicle and Equipment Use Policy with the discussed amendment requiring drug testing following an accident. The motion carried.

Item 8: Consideration and Possible Approval of Alcohol Beverage License – Milpas Cocina, 6874 Reinhardt College Parkway

Council considered the alcohol beverage license application for NIIB OOLAL GROUP, LLC, doing business as Milpas Cocina, located at 6874 Reinhardt College Parkway.

A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell and seconded by Councilmember Cochran to approve the application. The motion carried.

Item 9: Discussion for GDOT Proposed Roundabout at SR 140 and SR 108

Council discussed the Georgia Department of Transportation's proposed roundabout at the intersection of State Routes 108 and 140.

The City Clerk advised that GDOT requested an estimate of potential utility relocation costs associated with the project. City Engineer Lamar Rogers estimated that preparing the utility impact and relocation cost estimate would cost less than $5,000.

Council discussed potential impacts to City water infrastructure, decorative streetlights, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, and traffic flow.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran and seconded by Councilmember Cook to authorize City Engineer Lamar Rogers to prepare the requested utility relocation cost estimate for submission to GDOT. The motion carried.

Council also discussed the possibility of considering a resolution regarding the proposed roundabout at a future meeting.

No action was taken on a resolution.

Item 10: Water System Report

Chris Lumpkim provided updates on ongoing water system operations and projects.

Installation of water lines for the Highway 108 Water Project and associated connections was substantially complete, with final inspections and project closeout activities remaining.

A possible unmetered water connection serving a university building was identified. Additional investigation will be conducted to determine the existing service configuration and ensure appropriate metering.

Council discussed a proposed water line extension to serve two residences. Discussion included construction costs, homeowner contributions, and the importance of maintaining consistency with previous City practices. No formal action was taken.

Council discussed the Sardis Road Project continued efforts to contact a property owner regarding access needed for water infrastructure work. Additional outreach will be pursued.

September water usage and water loss figures were lower than the previous month. From 16% to 11.2 %.

Council discussed a request for a water and sewer will-serve letter for Phase 4 of Hawks Crest. It was clarified that the City provides water service only and does not provide sewer service. The City Engineer's previous review and approval of the development were discussed. A water-only will-serve letter could be provided upon confirmation that the development plans remained unchanged.

Item 11: City Clerk's Report

Lauren Garrett provided updated that City's auditors are doing their preliminary fieldwork. The audit was progressing well and was expected to remain on schedule.

The City Clerk reported that software compatibility issues associated with importing the property tax digest had delayed preparation of the 2026 tax bills. The issues were being addressed with Tyler Technologies, and bills were expected to be printed and mailed during the week.

The possibility of Cherokee County handling the City's property tax billing and collection in future years was discussed. The City Clerk will explore this option and bring additional information to Council for consideration.

The City Clerk proposed installing an interior doorway connecting the administrative offices and utility billing area to improve employee safety, accessibility, and operational efficiency.

An estimated installation cost of approximately $2,000 to $2,500 was discussed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell and seconded by Councilmember Cochran to approve installation of the interior doorway. The motion carried.

Council also briefly discussed staff transportation needs for City-related errands, training, and daily operations. No formal action was taken.

Item 12: City Attorney's Report

None.

Item 13: Mayor's Report

Council briefly discussed upcoming road maintenance and paving activities along State Routes 108 and 140.

No formal action was taken.

Item 14: Council Remarks

None.

Item 15: Recess Regular Meeting for Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Item 16: Adjournment of Regular Council Meeting

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Cochran and seconded by Councilmember Bosch to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:21 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 2nd DAY OF November, 2026.

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest

Lauren Garrett

Lauren Garrett, City Clerk