



CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2026

Present:

Mary Helen Lamb – Mayor

Dennis Cochran – Pro Tem

Michael Greene – Councilmember

Walt Cook - Councilmember

Eddie Blackwell – Councilmember

Peter Brown – Councilmember

Lauren Garrett – City Clerk

Lamar Rogers – Engineer

Kathryn Hurley – Associate Attorney Representing the City Attorney

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.

2. Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Five Minute Public Input

None.

4. Proclamations

Mayor Lamb presented a proclamation recognizing April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation was accepted by representatives of Cherokee County DFCS, who expressed their appreciation.

Mayor Lamb presented a proclamation recognizing April as Girl Scout Month.

5. Consideration to Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes March 16, 2026

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Greene. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Cross-Connection Ordinance / Policy – Water System

Council considered the adoption of the Cross Connection Ordinance.

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to adopt the Cross Connection Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and approved.

The ordinance was adopted and signed by Mayor Lamb.

7. Water System Report

Engineer Lamar Rogers updated Council on the Highway 108 water project, UWS is set to start April 27, 2026.

Discussion followed regarding the planned water line route, including its location along Highway 108, anticipated right-of-way constraints, and potential impacts to surrounding properties and

infrastructure. Concerns were expressed about possible ground settling following construction, particularly in the event of drought conditions.

Rogers noted that utility locates will be required prior to construction and may need to be refreshed before work begins.

Additional discussion included a potential development connection to the City's water system, which may require installation of a pump station at the City's water tank. It was noted that the developer's engineer is aware of these requirements.

Rogers also reported that certain shop drawings for Abington Hall had been reviewed and some were not approved due to inconsistencies with project requirements.

Work has also begun on drawings for Sardis Circle.

No action was taken.

City Clerk Lauren Garrett presented a proposal to upgrade the City's current auto-read water meter system to a Flex Read system.

She explained that the existing system is outdated and operates from a single computer at City Hall, creating potential service disruptions if the system fails. The proposed upgrade would provide a cloud-based platform accessible via web browser on multiple devices and includes improved mapping capabilities and updated meter data.

She further noted that vendor support is readily available, and installation could occur promptly upon approval.

Discussion followed regarding the cloud-based system and accessibility improvements.

Councilmember Blackwell made a motion to approve the upgrade to the Flex Read system in the amount of \$4,650 for the first year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Greene.

The motion was approved unanimously.

It was noted that the Diamond Maps subscription includes coverage of the City's water system along with approximately ten hours of support services. Council directed that the annual subscription cost of approximately \$600 be included in the upcoming budget, with additional discussion to occur regarding any extra service hours and associated costs.

Discussion also occurred regarding water service activation for properties in the Abington Hall development. It was confirmed that water service will not be activated until unpaid invoices have been paid.

No action was taken.

8. City Clerk's Report

Lauren Garrett presented the City Clerk's Report.

She reported that a new staff member, Amber, has joined the City and is adjusting well to her role.

Ms. Garrett also advised that three audit proposals have been received and are currently under review. A recommendation will be presented to Council at the April 20, 2026 meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the upcoming Farmers Market. Ms. Garrett inquired about coordination and approval procedures, noting that the City typically provides a portable restroom for the event. Council directed that the event organizers appear before Council for formal approval prior to the start of the season. Upon approval, authorization will be given to proceed with ordering the portable restroom for the May through September season.

Ms. Garrett also presented updated information regarding fraud protection services for the City's bank accounts. She reported an initial setup cost of \$150 and a monthly cost of \$25 per account. Discussion followed regarding the increased cost from previous estimates and the importance of protecting City funds from fraudulent activity.

Councilmember Greene made a motion to approve the fraud protection services as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown and approved unanimously.

9. City Attorney's Report

Kathryn C. Hurley, Associate Attorney, representing the City Attorney, presented the City Attorney's Report.

She reported that a draft update to the City's telecommunications tower ordinance has been prepared and provided for review. The proposed revisions include additional restrictions not currently included in the existing ordinance. It was noted that the ordinance is not yet ready for introduction and will be considered at a future meeting.

Ms. Hurley also noted that information has been requested regarding potential updates to the City's sign ordinance to address electronic signage. Discussion followed regarding the need to establish regulations, including brightness and other applicable standards, for electronic signs.

No action was taken.

10. Mayor's Report

None.

11. Council Remarks

Discussion occurred regarding weekend construction activity at the former R.M. Moore School site. It was noted that the City's noise ordinance restricts construction activity to weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., unless a special permit is issued for emergency work. It was reported that the contractor has been notified, and weekend construction activity has ceased.

Additional discussion occurred regarding a property near Laurel Canyon and potential annexation activity by the City of Canton. Concerns were expressed regarding possible encroachment into the City's water service area and compliance with existing intergovernmental agreements.

Council indicated the need to gather additional information and to contact the City of Canton to clarify the status of the property and any proposed service changes.

No action was taken.

12. Enter Executive Session – Personnel

A motion was made by Councilmember Greene to enter Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blackwell. Motion passed.

13. Adjourn Executive Session

Executive Session was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

14. Enter Regular Council Meeting

Council re-entered the Regular Council Meeting.

Discussion occurred regarding personnel matters. Council directed staff to proceed with the appropriate hiring process.

No formal action was taken.

15. Adjournment of Regular Council Meeting Minutes

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF April, 2026.

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest



Lauren Garrett, City Clerk