



**CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2025**

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
John Meier, City Attorney
Kevin Purcell with Kendall Supply Inc.

Absent: Tacie Jo Bracken - CPA
Lamar Rogers - Engineer

- 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: Consideration to Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes December 16, 2024**
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes for December 16, 2024. A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Cochran, and approved by all members present.
- Item 5: Discuss employees pay increase of 1.5%**
There was discussion about the pay increase of 1.5%. The original approved budget factored in a 3% pay increase for the year. The council did approve a

1.5% increase last July with the caveat that this topic would be revisited at the end of the year. A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Patrick, and approved by all members present to approve the 1.5% pay increase.

Item 6: Consideration to amend Code: Sec. 16-50. Weapons; discharge in city, second reading

There was a Resolution and Ordinance presented to the council to amend the current code: Sec. 16-50. A motion was made by Councilmember Bosch, seconded by Councilmember Brown, and approved by all members present to approve this code amendment. Mrs. Kirsch will send this to municode to have updated in the city's code and on the city's website.

Item 7: Tacie Jo Bracken – update on amended budget, update on ARPA and SLFRF unobligated funds deadline, present audit

This item will be tabled as Mrs. Bracken is unable to attend due to weather conditions. She will plan on being at the January 27th meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran to table, seconded by Councilmember Green, and approved by all members present.

Item 8: Kevin Purcell with Kendall Supply – update on antenna for Silver Creek Water Tank

Mr. Purcell requested that the council approve allowing CCWSA to install an AMI antenna on the Silver Creek Water Tank. This would be for a 3 month "pilot period". It was agreed upon that Mr. Purcell will draw up an agreement that states the time frame of the pilot period, the date CCWSA must remove the antenna if they choose to not use Kendall Supply, a fee of \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 that will be charged per week that the antenna remains on the city's tank. A hold harmless clause that protects the city and its property. After Mr. Purcell draws up that agreement it will be sent to Mrs. Kirsch and she will forward it to the city's attorney, John Meier, for review. If CCWSA decides to keep the antenna an IGA will be required between Cherokee County and the City of Waleska. That agreement will also go to the city's attorney, Mr. Meier, for review. A motion was made by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Brown, and approved by all members present.

Item 9: Water System Report

- Chris Lumpkin updated the council on a leak at Dollar General located near the ice machine. That was a large repair but has been addressed.
- Mr. Lumpkin updated the council of another leak on Sardis Circle. This was repaired less than a month ago but has become an issue again. The city had a different contractor look at it and decided to pack around the line and meter with all gravel as opposed to gravel and soil. This is a very narrow, older road that is crumbling in many places. There are new homes being built along this route and large trucks hauling tons of concrete are often seen. The thought is since the meter was originally

placed under the road as these trucks drive over the soil is compacted putting pressure on the line and meter causing continuous leaks. The city has asked for a bid to move the meter away from the road in the hopes this problem will be resolved. Mr. Lumpkin will get back to the council on the 27th with that bid amount.

- Mr. Lumpkin advised the council that during the bad storm we had around Christmas the breaker was flipped at the dry pond tank location. There is a battery backup that lasts 4 hours. Mr. Lumpkin was keeping an eye on all tanks during this storm event via SCADA, went to physically check and found that the breaker had been thrown and the backup was activated. Due to all this the tank overflowed causing water loss. To what degree of loss is yet to be determined but he feels like he caught it early.
- Mr. Lumpkin and Mr. Purcell with Kendall supply had an in-depth conversation with the council as to the water loss report for the month. Mr. Lumpkin, Mr. Purcell, Mrs. Kirsch, and Mrs. Smith are all working together to get to the bottom of why a couple of the meters located at Reinhard University are flip flopping on their usage. Data is being gathered and there was discussion about doing our own mapping. More information will be brought to the council in the coming months.
- Addressing the overall water loss of the city it was discussed that Mr. Lumpkin consider driving around different areas of the city once or twice a month looking for leaks that the city may not be aware of. We are waiting for a map from Turnipseed Engineers and will continue to update that data as we locate lines, valves, and other anomalies. Mr. Purcell suggested the council and staff and engineer come up with a 5-year plan of attack so we can get a handle on the leaks and perhaps get to the point of installing new lines in areas that do not have access to city water. More updates will follow in the months to come on this ongoing conversation.

Item 10:

City Manager's Report

- Mrs. Kirsch discussed with the council that it is time for election preparation and requested information from the council members be completed and sent to her. After she receives that information, she will email and upload it to the appropriate sites to stay in compliance.
- Mrs. Kirsch and Mayor Lamb did review the annual Committees, Boards & Authorities for 2025. Mrs. Kirsch will send that to Mrs. Smith to post on the city's website.
- Mrs. Kirsch handed out a copy from Cherokee County about a land bank – 2025. This was for information purposes only.

- Mrs. Kirsch provided copies of all employees: carryover vacation, carryover sick, sick hours, and vacation hours.
- Mrs. Smith did update the 5% increase for all sanitation fees. She did this in the city's billing system as well as posted on the website.

Item 11:

City Attorney's Report

- Annexation – 75 Acre Site – Cable Road – 50 Home Sites – FR Peachtree LLC – Approved. Need IGA with Cherokee County for maintenance of section of Cable Road within city limits. County has responsibility on both sides of the section in the city
- 6.37+/- Acres – TIG Custom Homes, LLC – 60% Method. Ongoing efforts to communicate with property owners. Have spoken with a representative at TIG Custom Homes LLC in which they thought everything had been completed. Emails and calls have been made. Noone is responding to any of the attempted communications. Options for the legislative method to be discussed.
- No update since sending all the information to Mr. Roach.
- There has been no response from the Buice property as to water line easements. The decision was made by the council to not sale any meters for this property until this matter has been cleared up. Mrs. Kirsch will update all staff of the situation and that if Mr. Buice or anyone involved calls to let her speak to them so we can try and get this matter taken care of.

Item 12:

Mayor's Report

- Mrs. Lamb expressed concern about the parking on the street and the sidewalks on Bartow Street. There is a sign posted on that street that says, "No Street Parking Anytime". Mrs. Kirsch will notify Cherokee County Code Enforcement and the Marshal's Office.

Item 13:

Council Remarks

- Mr. Brown wanted to thank whoever painted the speed bumps on Grady Street. Mrs. Kirsch let the council know that was Chris Lumpkin's handy work.
- Mr. Brown expressed concern over the large tree on Grady Street that had all but taken down the cable line. Mrs. Kirsch

told Mr. Brown and the council that she had made 5 calls to Windstream over this matter to no avail. Each service request ticket had been cancelled. Mrs. Kirsch knows someone in upper management at Windstream and has reached out to this person who assured her the problem will be fixed in the next week. Mrs. Kirsch will keep an eye on this and update the council at the next meeting.

Item 14:

Adjourn Regular Council Meeting

APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF January, 2025.

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Kirsch

Kim Kirsch, City Clerk