



**CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2025**

Present: Mary Helen Lamb - Mayor
Dennis Cochran - Pro Tem
Eddie Blackwell - Councilmember
Peter Brown - Councilmember
Michael Greene - Councilmember
Logan Patrick - Councilmember
Chris Lumpkin - Water Director
Kim Kirsch - City Clerk/City Manager
John Meier - City Attorney

Absent: Kristi Bosch - Councilmember
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/Invocation**
Mayor Lamb led the Pledge to the Flag
Councilmember Greene gave the Invocation
- Item 3: Five Minute Public Hearing**
None
- Item 4: Consideration to Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes April 21, 2025**
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes for April 21, 2025. A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Cochran, and approved by all members present.
- Item 5: Yard of the Month**
The councilmembers did not have a nomination for this month's yard of the month. There will be a nomination at the next council meeting.

Item 6: Abbington Hall – Mr. Coogle & Mr. Holbert with Rea Ventures

Mrs. Kirsch advised the council that Mr. Coogle called her around 4:00pm today to say he and Mr. Holbert will not be able to attend the council meeting. Mr. Coogle informed Mrs. Kirsch that they have decided to maintain the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Coogle & Mr. Holbert will attend a meeting soon to update the council on their plans. Mrs. Kirsch told the council that she had done some research and spoken with Ms. Buffington with EPD. Ms. Buffington was the one who did the inspection in 2023 along with Mr. Holbert. Ms. Buffington stated as long as a private company has a certified wastewater operator, which Mr. Holbert is, then Abbington Hall could hire him to maintain the system. Mrs. Kirsch also reached out to people at DNR on the advice of Ms. Buffington to confirm they would allow a private company to maintain and operate a sanitary sewer. The answer was they would allow this.

Item 7: Derelict and Blighted Property Ordinance – sample

This item was tabled at the last council meeting. Mrs. Kirsch did provide all the council with a sample copy of the City of Ball Ground's ordinance. After reviewing, the council and the city attorney agreed that Mrs. Kirsch make some adjustments to this sample to reflect the City of Waleska. Mrs. Kirsch will edit the ordinance and send it to Mr. Meier for review. The edited ordinance will be brought back to the next council meeting on May 19th for review. It was mentioned that the city will need to contract out an inspector to enforce the ordinance.

Item 8: Water System Report

- Mr. Lumpkin updated the council that the water line had been capped at 495 John Cline Lane.
- Mr. Lumpkin presented three bids for Fire Hydrant Meters. The city needs to purchase at least three currently. The council approved the purchase of three Zenner hydrant meters from Fortiline at the cost of \$894.00 each. A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Patrick, and approved by all members present for this purchase.
- Mr. Lumpkin advised the council that there is a missing fire hydrant on Dry Pone Lane. Mr. Lumpkin advised the council that a replacement will cost \$4,150.00 which includes installation. A motion was made by Councilmember Greene, seconded by Councilmember Cochran, and approved by all members present to purchase the hydrant and have it installed.
- Mrs. Kirsch presented the water loss numbers as of April 28, 2025, which were 41,420 gallons. Mrs. Kirsch and Mr. Lumpkin discussed with the council that they had verified all the numbers that are involved in this calculation and could not find any errors there. The only other

thing that could cause this low of a drop in water loss, to their knowledge, is the buy/sell meter at Chestnut Hill. Mr. Lumpkin has done and will continue to data log this meter. That register has been changed two times in the last three months by the City of Canton for the sale to Waleska side. The hope is that these numbers will continue this trajectory.

Item 9: City Manager's Report

- Mrs. Kirsch updated the council that this is the first billing cycle in which the city has not sent out phone notifications to customers about past due bills. This has saved the city \$5,000.00 a month on their Tyler Technologies bill. Mrs. Kirsch did note that the number of water cut-offs this month for non-payment had doubled. All but one of those accounts has now paid.
- Mrs. Kirsch updated the council on SPLOST as of April 2025. According to the county SPLOST was up 3.18% higher than the same month in 2024 and compared to March it is 7.38% higher than budgeted and year to date receipts are running 5.86% higher than budgeted.
- Mrs. Kirsch informed the council that Ms. Stallings with Cherokee County Planning & Zoning had contacted her and the mayor about the property located at 6497 Reinhardt College Parkway. The owner wishes to turn this into a storage lot for vehicles, RVs, and boats. The council instructed Mrs. Kirsch to ask Ms. Stallings if a deceleration lane would be required at that location and to ask what will happen to that main water line. The council would insist that if there is a need to relocate that water line then the property owner would be solely responsible for all costs involved and Mr. Rogers would inspect the work done.
- Mrs. Kirsch informed the council that after doing a lot of research over the past three months, having Mrs. Bracken and Mrs. Smith look over said research, and contacting Tyler Technologies, it has been determined that the City of Waleska does not bill customers two months behind. The Tyler system has been updated accordingly.
- Mrs. Kirsch asked the council to consider switching to JAT Consulting Services out of Kennesaw, Georgia for the city's financial consultant service. They have been in business for over 30 years. Mrs. Kirsch has spoken with the Vice President of Government Services and would like for the council to meet her at the June 9th meeting. Mrs. Kirsch feels this would be better as far as deadlines go and investment and revenue opportunities for the city. The council agreed this is something they would consider.

Item 10: City Attorney's Report

- Mr. Meier reported to the council that he is waiting for an IGA with Cherokee County on a 75-acre site on Cable Road which would have 50 home sites.

Item 11: Mayor's Report

Madam Mayor requested that Mrs. Kirsch contact the state about installing a "blind drive" sign near 8841 Fincher Road as she has had several instances there of almost being hit by vehicles coming around the turn too fast. Mrs. Kirsch will reach out to the state. Mrs. Kirsch has told the Marshalls office and the Sheriff's office to feel free to park in the city's parking lot as she and the rest of the staff notice numerous people coming through town at a high rate of speed on a daily basis.

Item 12: Council Remarks

None

Item 13: Adjourn Regular Council Meeting

APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF May, 2025.

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Kirsch

Kim Kirsch, City Clerk