



**CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 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
Brandon Bowen - 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 of Allegiance.
- Item 3: Five Minute Public Hearing**
Mr. Woodall would like to run a water line to the corner of Geneva Road and Frances Road. He will be developing five lots that total 12.5 acres. Mr. Lumpkin and Madam Mayor informed him that the meters would need to be set at the corner of Upper Burris Road and Geneva Road, and he would need permission from the homeowner at the corner of Upper Burris Road to bury line in the right-of-way. If he can have permission granted, he will reapproach the city council for further instruction.
- Item 4: Consideration to Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes December 15, 2025**
Mayor Mary Helen Lamb asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes for December 15, 2025. A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Greene, and approved by all members present.

Item 5: Adopt Qualifying Fees - \$72.00

Mrs. Kirsch presented a resolution that combines the qualifying fees for this year's election and calling for a special election. A motion was made to approve this resolution by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Bosch and approved by all members present. Mrs. Kirsch will send this resolution and all other necessary paperwork to Cherokee County Elections and the paper for advertising.

Item 6: Calling an election

Same discussion and vote as Item 5.

Item 7: Stanco – Dixon Road

Allen with Stanco asked the councils permission to run a 2" line down a portion of Dixon Road. The distance will be approximately 250 feet. Allen will also install a flushing assembly in preparation for any future extension of the line as well as two valves. The installation will be required to have an inspection by Mr. Rogers with Turnipseed Engineers and after the project is completed Allen will relinquish the line to the City of Waleska to maintain. Allen owns the property and will also sign permission to dig in the right-of-way. A motion was made to approve this installation by Councilmember Cochran, seconded by Councilmember Greene and approved by all members present.

Item 8: Hawthorne – Development off Hwy. 140 Discussion

Mr. Hawthorne contacted Mrs. Kirsch to reschedule first of February. Tabled till further notice.

Item 9: Proposed late fees for Sanitation Customers

Mrs. Garrett with the city's water department/sanitation department suggested charging a late fee for sanitation customers. Mrs. Kirsch and Mrs. Garrett have been communicating with WastePro and the standard late fee is \$5.00 a month. The council agreed to implement a \$5.00 late fee for any payment received after the 15th of every month. Also, Mrs. Bosch recommended sending WastePro out to pick up the can(s) once the customer was late, which would be the 16th of the month. The goal is to keep sanitation customers more up to date with their billing going forward. A motion was made to add a \$5.00 late fee to sanitation customers that pay after the 15th, have the cans picked up if not paid by the 15th of each month. This policy will be implemented March 1st, 2026. In the meantime, Mrs. Kirsch will put a notice on the city's website and Facebook page and will work with Mrs. Garrett and the software company to have this fee added to the billing system. A motion was made to approve this new policy by Councilmember Bosch, seconded by Councilmember Cochran and approved by all members present.

Item 10: Water System Report

- Mrs. Kirsch informed the city council that the water loss for December was 19.12%. Mrs. Kirsch, Mrs. Garrett, and Mr. Lumpkin have been working together to log all leaks rather on the customer's side or the city's side of the meter. Mr. Lumpkin now has a website on which you can enter the size

of the line, the amount of time the line has been leaking and other variables to get a better estimate of water loss. Mr. Lumpkin and Mrs. Garrett are also recording the usage of all hydrant meters that are being used out in the field and billing those customers.

- Mr. Rogers presented the top five bids for the Hwy. 108 water line project. UWS bid \$936,198.52. The city has worked with this company multiple times in the past and chose them to complete this project. Mr. Rogers worked very hard to secure a GEFA grant for the full amount with funds remaining of \$290,368.44. This money can only be used for this specific project. The city will not have to come out of pocket for any funds needed for this project. Mr. Rogers reminded everyone that an easement will be needed for the Firehouse in Waleska as well as the house across the street. This was recorded in the last council meeting minutes. Mr. Bowen will work with Mr. Rogers on these easements. Madam Mayor will sign the resolution, and Mrs. Kirsch will send a copy to Turnipseed Engineers this week. This project must be completed by October 2026. Mrs. Kirsch asked Mr. Rodgers if she could be involved in the pre-construction meeting with UWS as well as Mr. Lumpkin.
- Mr. Lumpkin, Allen and Mrs. Kirsch discussed the leaks at George Gray Lane. There were back-to-back leaks in a very short time. Mrs. Kirsch asked Mr. Lumpkin to get a bid from T. Stanco for replacing the line that runs from the main meter on one side of the road, bore under the road at the bridge, and connects to the 2" line that continues down George Gray Lane. The cost to replace the section of line that goes from 2" to 1" to ¾" back to 2" is estimated at \$5,600.00. Mrs. Kirsch asked the council to approve this project. A motion was made to approve by Councilmember Greene, seconded by Councilmember Brown and approved by all members present.
- Mrs. Kirsch let the council know that the automatic dechlorinator they had approved for the end of Sam Nelson Road has not been installed. This project should be wrapped up by February as this will be a custom-built system in cooperation with CCWSA.
- Mrs. Kirsch informed the council of an error in the billing software system concerning residential water customers that used over 15K gallons of water a month. The fee is \$10.82/gallon. In the system the fee was \$1.08. The software company could not tell how long exactly this error went back but told Mrs. Kirsch the fee-table was set up in 2018. The error has been corrected.

Item 11: City Manager's Report

- Mrs. Kirsch stated an executive session will be necessary. Mr. Bowen advised amending the agenda and documenting this with an Affidavit of Compliance which Mrs. Kirsch will do. A motion was made to amend the

Agenda to discuss personal matters by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Greene and approved by all members present.

- Mrs. Bembry provided the November 2025 financials. Mrs. Bembry advised Mrs. Kirsch that the year-to-date financials are strong with all operating funds. Both water and sanitation funds look good.
- Councilmember Greene asked for the status of the audit. Due to circumstances beyond Mrs. Bembry's and Mrs. Kirsch's control, the city was forced to file for an extension. Mrs. Bembry and Mrs. Kirsch are in regular contact with the CPA firm and hope to have a complete audit in a few weeks.
- Mrs. Kirsch let the council know that the GA Fund 1 accounts are doing well. One of these accounts is for SPLOST and has gained over \$6,000.00 in interest in three months. This is a strong investment for the city.
- Mrs. Kirsch asked the council to approve opening a separate bank account strictly for TSPLOST funds. This was also advised by Mrs. Bembry. A motion was made to approve opening a bank account for TSLPOST by Councilmember Bosch, seconded by Councilmember Cochran and approved by all members present. Mrs. Kirsch will communicate with Cherokee County to complete the necessary paperwork for automatic deposits.
- Mrs. Kirsch requested the approval of a Vehicle Inspection Report for all employees that drive city vehicles to complete daily. Along with this a Take Home Vehicle Policy was presented. There will also be a policy created in relation to tracking devices installed on all city vehicles. This is a standard practice for many municipalities. The council agreed these are all good practices.

Item 12: City Attorney's Report

- Mr. Bowen was introduced to the City Council. He presented a resolution to the City Council that states he is at the will of the council and not under any type of contract. A motion was made to approve the resolution and welcome Mr. Bowen aboard by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Greene and approved by all members present.
- Mrs. Kirsch let the council know that Mr. Meier had sent his sincerest appreciation to them for the years of service he was able to provide the City of Waleska.

Item 13: Mayor's Report

The mayor asked Mr. Lumpkin for the status of the installation of the new Welcome to the City of Waleska signs. Mr. Lumpkin will work to get these installed soon.

Item 14: Council Remarks
None

Item 15: Adjourn Regular Council Meeting – 7:24pm
A motion was made to adjourn the regular council meeting by Councilmember Bosch, seconded by Councilmember Greene and approved by all members present.

APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF January, 2026.

Mary Helen Lamb
Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest: Kim Kirsch
Kim Kirsch, City Clerk