



**CITY OF WALESKA**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 16, 2026**

**Present:**

**Mary Helen Lamb – Mayor**

**Dennis Cochran – Pro Tem**

**Kristi Bosch – Councilmember**

**Michael Greene – Councilmember**

**Walt Cook - Councilmember**

**Lauren Garrett – City Clerk**

**Eddie Blackwell – Councilmember**

**Peter Brown – Councilmember**

**Lamar Rogers – Engineer**

**Brandon Bowen – City Attorney**

**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.

**Item 2: Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Lamb led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Greene delivered the invocation.

### **Item 3: Five Minute Public Input**

Public input was opened.

A resident spoke regarding a utility/easement matter related to a property near a residence formerly owned by Ms. Ponder. The resident inquired about the need for permission to access the property for upcoming work. It was confirmed that permission is still required.

Discussion followed regarding the property owner being deceased and the property currently in probate. It was noted that authorization would need to be obtained from the appointed administrator of the estate. The resident stated that their landlord is the deceased owner's brother-in-law and that they are in the process of attempting to purchase the home, pending completion of probate. The resident also noted that they are awaiting further information and that the process may take some time.

Additional discussion occurred regarding the appropriate county for probate proceedings, with uncertainty expressed due to the owner having resided outside of Cherokee County.

The resident indicated no objection to the work being completed, provided that any disturbance to the yard is repaired.

Public input was closed.

### **Item 4: Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2026**

Councilmember Greene made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cochran. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 5: Cross-Connection Ordinance / Policy – Water System (Second Reading – Tabled Item)**

Staff indicated a final version of the ordinance was not yet ready for consideration.

Councilmember Greene made a motion to table the Cross-Connection Ordinance / Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cochran. Motion passed unanimously. (Item Tabled)

### **Item 6: Water System Report**

A report was presented regarding a proposed maintenance agreement with American Tank Maintenance for the City's water tanks.

Key points discussed included:

- The company manages over 1,400 tanks in the Southeast
- The proposed full-service maintenance program includes inspections, cleaning, coating, and repairs

- Estimated cost of approximately \$700,000 over 10 years
- Initial five-year cost includes major repairs
- Estimated annual cost thereafter of approximately \$40,000

Council discussed budget concerns and requested additional financial review before making a decision.

Direction: The City Clerk was asked to consult with financial staff and bring the item back for future consideration.

Additional updates included improvements in billing accuracy and updates on development activity.

No formal action was taken.

#### **Item 7: City Clerk's Report**

City Clerk Lauren Garrett presented residential building plans submitted by residents requesting approval to purchase water meters at the following locations:

- 1991 Darby Road (Lot 48)
- 1983 Darby Road (Lot 49)
- 2396 Land Road

Council reviewed the plans as part of the City's process to ensure water availability prior to construction.

#### **Item 8: City Attorney's Report**

The City Attorney reported ongoing review of ordinances and indicated that additional time is needed.

#### **Item 9: Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported the hiring of Amber Jenkins as Water Clerk and noted that the School Superintendent will attend the first Council meeting in May.

#### **Item 10: Council Remarks**

No formal remarks were recorded.

#### **Item 11: Enter Executive Session – Personnel**

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Greene. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 12: Adjourn Executive Session**

Executive session was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. No formal action was taken.

**Item 13: Enter Regular Council Meeting**

Council reentered the regular Council meeting.

**Item 14: Adjourn Regular Council Meeting**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2026.

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest.

Lauren Garrett

Lauren Garrett, City Clerk