



CITY OF WALESKA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Present:

Mary Helen Lamb – Mayor

Walt Cook – Councilmember

Eddie Blackwell – Councilmember

Peter Brown – Councilmember

Michael Greene – Councilmember

Kristi Bosch – Councilmember

Lauren Garrett – City Clerk

Brandon Bowen– City Attorney

Chris Lumpkin – Water Maintenance Manager

Lamar Rogers – Engineer

Absent:

Dennis Cochran – Pro Tem

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

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

Item 3: Five-Minute Public Input

A resident of Waleska addressed Council regarding the \$9.00 monthly streetlight fee and reiterated his concerns regarding the fee as it relates to Darby Road where he resides.

Following discussion, Council directed the City Clerk to contact Amicalola EMC to obtain a streetlight plan for Darby Road and determine options for installing City streetlights along the road. Council will also review the City's current ordinances related to streetlights and the streetlight fee.

A resident of Puckett Road addressed Council regarding concerns with a high water bill, stating that he did not believe his poultry operation could have used the amount of water reflected on the bill.

Following discussion, Council directed staff to obtain the City's water purchase bill for the applicable billing period and compare the City's purchased water usage with the usage reflected in the City's billing records.

The matter will be reviewed further and brought back before Council at the next meeting.

Item 4: Consideration to Approve the Called Council Meeting Minutes July 20, 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Brown to approve the called meeting minutes of July 20, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Consideration to Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Greene to approve the Regular meeting minutes of July 20, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6: Consideration to Approve the Called Meeting Minutes July 28, 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Bosch to approve the called meeting minutes of July 28, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 7: Water System Report

Lamar Rogers the City Engineer, provided an update regarding the proposed water line improvements along Sardis Rd. Due to the limited right-of-way and the location of existing utilities, an easement may be necessary to complete a portion of the project. Staff will determine the appropriate property owner and look into obtaining the necessary easement.

Lamar reviewed the proposed water line route, which includes an 8-inch line from Highway 140, a connection to the existing 2-inch line, and continuation along Sardis Road with a 6-inch line.

Council also discussed a proposed subdivision along the project route. The developer had previously indicated an understanding that the City would install the portion of the water line extending to the subdivision and that the developer would reimburse the City for the cost.

Council clarified that no current agreement or contract exists regarding reimbursement. Lamar will provide the estimate of the project cost related to the subdivision for council to approve.

Lamar advised that final drawings would be submitted to Cherokee County for approval and would also be sent to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Work will proceed once the necessary approvals and easement matters are addressed.

Chris Lumpkin the Water Maintenance Manager, reported that the Burnt Mountain water tank experienced issues following cleaning. The contractor returned, re-sanitized and flushed the tank, and the issue has been resolved.

Council discussed restoration of a residential yard disturbed during City water work. Council agreed that the City's responsibility is to restore the affected area to its previous condition rather than provide an upgraded type of grass.

Item 8: City Clerk's Report

Lauren Garrett the City Clerk, stated that she had no additional items to report.

Council requested that data centers be added to an upcoming meeting agenda. Council discussed the increasing development of data centers in rural areas and referenced Cherokee County's consideration of a moratorium. Concerns included potential impacts on water resources and the need for appropriate local regulations.

Item 9: City Attorney's Report

Brandon Bowen the City Attorney stated that he has previously drafted data center ordinances and advised that an ordinance could be established requiring proposed data center developments to come before Council for review and approval.

Item 10: Mayor's Report

None.

Item 11: Council Remarks

Council thanked Chris Lumpkin and Lauren Garrett for assisting residents whose water service had inadvertently been disconnected at the wrong residence. Staff remained after normal business hours to address the issue and restore service.

Council requested that the City's regulations concerning goats and backyard chickens be reviewed and considered at a future meeting. The current ordinance requires a minimum of two acres and limits animals to one per acre. Council discussed comparing the City's ordinance with Cherokee County's regulations, particularly because the City utilizes Cherokee County animal control services. Additional research will be conducted before the matter returns to Council.

Item 12: Adjournment of Regular Council Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Greene and seconded by Councilmember Brown to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED THIS 17th DAY OF August, 2026.

Mary Helen Lamb

Mary Helen Lamb, Mayor

Attest

Lauren Garrett

Lauren Garrett, City Clerk