

**MINUTES  
WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016  
COUNCIL MEETING  
7:00 P.M.**

**Present:**

**Mayor Lamar Lee  
Kathy Dimsdale  
Wayne Dimsdale  
Kevin Shultz  
Carol Witcher**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

BY Mayor Lamar Lee

**II. INVOCATION**

Given by Joe Reitman

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Motion made by Wayne Dimsdale to amend the agenda by changing the date from Thursday October 13, 2016 to Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and then approve it, seconded by Kevin Shultz, Motion Passed.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VI. MINUTES APPROVAL: SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Motion Made by Kevin Schultz, seconded by Kathy Dimsdale, motion Passed.

**VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Given by Public Works Director Alan Barton

We have been trying to clean this town up and keep the sidewalks and roads kept up trash picked up. I think we just about have a handle on it. Sometimes the trash gets a little out of hand but we get it picked up before the week is out. The grass would look a little better if we could get some rain. Up at the Precinct we have the chain link fence between the precinct and the Dollar General store. The Sheriff's Department has brought it to our attention they would like to have a privacy fence. It would keep a lot of the trash off the lawn and give them some privacy. So I have a

quote here the cheapest way I found would be to put the plastic slates down through the chain link fence. And that quote is \$1,024.95. Wayne Dimsdale – Is that labor and all? Alan Barton – No, that's us doing it. Kathy Dimsdale – How big a fence is this? Alan Barton – It is 150' long. The chain link fence is there and all we are going to do is buy the plastic slates and put them between the wire. It will give them privacy and keep the trash out. Wayne Dimsdale – Is that some color? Alan Barton – It's brown. Brown, green or black. We could get brown or green either one. Then we got the yard aerated and City Hall and put some rye grass out. That way maybe it will look better. It really looks bad up there at the precinct. Wayne Dimsdale – Lamar told me he fixed the aerator. Glad we don't have to have a new one. Alan Barton – I'm just trying to make everything look a little better than it does. It has been hard with no rain. But anyway, we have got that going on.

We got the building up over at the Spray Field and it all looks good. We are taking quotes now on the electrical on the inside to run the heaters and the exhaust fan. We have to build the little office in there to keep the records and store the parts and stuff on the inside. We got one quote \$20,200 and something. I'm waiting on another quote. Jim Sunta is getting another one from another company. The County is going to pay for half of it. We have to have it. Wayne Dimsdale – It is still a lot though. Alan Barton – Yes everything has to be corrosion proof because of the sewage and water with all the chemicals. Carol – Are the quotes verbal or written? Alan Barton – written quotes. Carol Witcher – Can I go back to the Sheriff's Department fence? Who is paying for that? Alan Barton – The City. Lamar Lee – We are paying for it. It is our fence. Wayne Dimsdale – our fence. Kathy Dimsdale – our property. Carol Witcher – well I don't know why they would need a privacy fence. I would think in the essence of having that store there which may or may not be an open traffic for somebody to come in and shoot shoot bang bang that maybe they would want a view to know what is going on. Put some hedges or something up there beside it. Alan Barton – Well you are talking about more money if you put hedges up. I mean really this is the cheapest way out. Wayne Dimsdale – You would have to maintain the hedges and stuff. Alan Barton – And another think, I mean, if somebody thinks somebody is looking there ain't nobody doing wrong but they could see through there if nobody could see they were looking. Joe Reitman – What is the height of that fence? Alan Barton – 6 foot. Carol Witcher – What is the estimated stop and start date on that fence if it goes through? How long will it take to put it up? Alan Barton – I don't have any idea. I'd say it would take a day or two. Kathy Dimsdale – the fence is up they are just going to run the slates through the chain link fence that is already there. Alan Barton – Yea the fence is already there. Kathy Dimsdale – We should have thought of this sooner and had it put in the

contract that Dollar General would have to do it. But it is too late now. Wayne Dimsdale – A lot of times a contractor would have to put up some kind of a privacy fence between the business and there. But it is too late for us because we already approved everything on it. We didn't think about that. Joe Reitman – I guess you could ask them but like you say it is after the fact. If they want to be a good neighbor I guess they might chip in and defray the cost. Wayne Dimsdale – it wouldn't hurt to ask. Joe Reitman – We could say let's go 50/50. Carol Witcher – it is for their mutual benefit as well. Joe Reitman – that's true. Do we know who to talk to over there Lamar? Lamar Lee- Kathy has it. Wayne – can we give them a call? Lamar Lee – yes. Kathy Dimsdale – ask for it all first. Joe Reitman – Is the trash coming from Dollar General – Lamar – Yes. Joe Reitman – That might give you a little leverage Mayor. Kathy Dimsdale – And I don't know why we can't ask the Sheriff's Office to chip in. They are the ones that want it. Carol Witcher – that is the way I feel Kathy. Lamar Lee- It is not so much that they..Carol Witcher – We should be able to go half and half with them and the Dollar store. As counselor said it is their trash coming over on us. Kathy Dimsdale we should definitely asked them and I don't why we couldn't get the Sheriff's Office to chip in too. Carol Witcher – well it is a symbiotic relationship you live together for mutual benefit. We can ask them about a symbiotic relationship all they can do is say no. Kathy Dimsdale – that's true. Wayne Dimsdale - Worse thing that can happen is we are going to have to put it in. Kathy Dimsdale – that is still with Alan and the guys putting it in. Joe Reitman – that's a selling point. Let the Sheriff pay half the materials and Dollar General pay half and you provide labor. That's got real value to it. Carol Witcher – So Mr. Mayor are you going to approach them about that? Mayor Lee - Yes mamam. I certainly am. Alan Barton - everything else we got the Christmas tree trimmed up and ready to put the lights on it. Christmas is just around the corner. Kathy Dimsdale – It is. I want to say thank you. I think the sign turned out great. Alan Barton –It was a little pricey but it is not like the one at the precinct. It will not rot. And the Walnut Grove Part is metal. Wayne Dimsdale - I would like to say thank you for doing the part that is between my house and Emerald Cove. The County never, I mean the State, never cuts it. Alan Barton - It is like I'm trying to say I'm trying to clean up the ditches and roads. The boys are working hard on this trash I don't know I wish I had a penny for every shot liquor bottle we find on the parkway. You are right about the first impression. Actually Hwy 81 has more traffic than 138. Alan Barton - I'm trying to get it where it looks good when people come to town. We have new banners and new lights for the Christmas tree. All led lights so they shouldn't be flipping the breakers. We put a whole new light system on the tree. That's about all I've got.

**VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Given by Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk - Council was directed to find the financials in their notebooks. Back in August or September we talked about buying a truck. We ended up buying the truck and the money was taken out of the line item from Public Works. I would like to ask to take money from the Money Market Account to reimburse it. Joe Reitman – I am trying to remember if we have to have a public hearing to amend the budget. Wayne Dimsdale – I think I remember that is what we have to do. Joe Reitman - a Pre-noticed public hearing. How quick do we need this? Kathy Glass - No it is fine right now. I just will need to put the money back. We just started this fiscal year July 1 so I'm just thinking by June 30 of 2017 I will need to have had that money put back. So you are saying I will need to have a public hearing to do that? Joe Reitman – I am having a senior moment. Kathy Glass – so we can address that at a later time. Your financials are in your book. Mayor Lee – Anything else? No response

**IX. CLERK'S REPORT**

Given by Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk - There were twenty-three citations issued in September Walton County Sheriff's Office issued fifteen, Georgia State Patrol issued eight and there were no business licenses issued or renewals. There were two special use permits issued. One was a special use at Corn Dawgs and an electrical permit was issued. The ball park was reserved three times and the pavilion was reserved four times.

**X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Code Enforcement Officer Craig Ellington was not present. His report was given by Mayor Lamar Lee. There were 33 citations issued and 29 of these are now in compliance and there are 4 pending. He is doing a jam up job. Kevin Shultz – Actual citations or just warnings? Mayor Lee – they were just warnings and then he went back and now they are in compliance. Wayne Dimsdale - Is the one at Church St and Park St in compliance? Mayor Lee – He is starting.

**XI. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Given by Mayor Lamar Lee

The only thing that I have is, you know the 29<sup>th</sup>, this Saturday, we have the festival. It is in line and ready to go. We will need plenty of people in the kitchen this time. We are going to have to handle it. And help with general information and clean up. The Walnut Grove Lion's Club is going to help us too. That will be a lot more help than last time. Wayne Dimsdale- Did we contact the Masonic Lodge and see if they

will help? Lamar Lee – No. I didn't. Wayne Dimsdale – They would probably be glad to come in and help too. Lamar Lee – Make you a note of that Kathy. Wayne Dimsdale – They like to get involved in everything. That's what I heard from them last time.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Amendment to 2016 – 2017 Budget

Kevin Shultz made a motion to table this matter until the November Council Meeting, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale, motion passed.

- b. Downtown Overlay District – We would like to bring that back in compliance with the City. We are seeing a lot of in and out looking around and property changing hands. Joe Reitman – Well does that downtown overlay district Mr. Mayor incorporate in the latest zoning ordinance and maps? I just don't remember. Wayne Dimsdale – we had to submit that to the State in 2000 and it was submitted to the State how the downtown overlay district was set up and what the ordinances were in that district and what the requirements to build were. I guess my question is, did that survive the passage of the new zoning ordinance and new zoning map? Wayne Dimsdale – I don't know. Mayor Lee - Kathy will give you a little update on the land use. Kathy Glass - Joe Walters said when he did all our updated ordinances this last month it was not included. We just agreed that we could add it later. So if the council wants to add it and we make a motion to start that process. It will have to have a public hearing and that would be passed in November. Joe Reitman – that sounds like the best way to handle it. Wayne Dimsdale – well being that it was set up with the State will we have to go through all that again? Joe Reitman – well I'd have to look at the preamble and the savings clause at the end the way the new zoning read and if it expressly reserved to maintain that it would be one thing but I don't recall one way or the other whether it did or not. And I sure don't want to take a chance on it. I really don't. I mean the intent was to do a new updated restated zoning ordinance, my recollection is. I think we kind of did that in 2012 as a place holder and Mr. Walters customized it and you passed it three months ago, I guess more or less. Time gets away from me Mr. Mayor. Well Jimmy Parker has got a copy of what the Downtown Overlay is. Joe Reitman –What you do is have a public hearing next month pass the same verbiage as was in it the first go round as when you did it those uptene years ago and then do a separate ad or same ad

with a separate line item in the ad for the map because the overlay district is part of the same zoning map connected there to. So your advertisement would be on two separate things. One on the Downtown Overlay regulations and one on the Downtown Overlay Map. Wayne Dimsdale – well now if we change the overlay regulations we will have to submit that back to the State again. Joe Reitman – I’m not sure why it would have gone to the State. I’m not sure what the status was on that. Wayne Dimsdale - Ok. Joe Reitman - When you have the corridor district or the down town overlay or historic district that’s a local thing. I’m not sure where the State part comes into it. Unless it is a designation of a historic district but this is not what this was. Wayne Dimsdale – In 2008 they sent us this thing that said we had to designate what was going to be in our downtown overlay and submit it to them and we did. I don’t know...Joe Reitman – Maybe we need to look back at the minutes. I’m going to have to refresh my memory. I wish I could speak to it but I don’t know. I came here in 2008 and so I wish I could speak to it but I just can’t. Mr. Mayor maybe you and I and Mrs. Kathy in the next couple of days here. We will look at what you’ve got from that era and I’ll give you some advice. Wayne Dimsdale – You may be able to get that information from Jimmy Parker also. Mayor Lee – Yep. Jimmy will know. Kathy Glass – or Joe Walter Mayor Lee – Joe is working with Jimmy anyway. Kathy Glass - He is with Precision. Mayor Lee - He is working on all that. So he is right there with Jimmy. Kevin Shultz – Do we need to do anything with that particular item tonight? It was on the new business. Kathy Glass – do we need to do any kind of motion so we can do a public hearing? Joe Reitman – you have a consensus but if you want to formalize it. Um authorize Precision Planning and the City Attorney to move forward with planning the necessary paper work on the Downtown Overlay that might not be a bad idea. As long as we understand we are not pre-deciding it. The zoning thing is subject to a public hearing. We are not pre-deciding anything just putting it on the agenda for a discussion and that way you can decide which way to go. Kevin Shultz – So we make a motion it be put on the agenda for next month? Joe Reitman – I think the motion is to start the process to give the Mayor and his office and Precision Planning and the City Attorney the green light to move forward to draft it for consideration after the public hearing next month. So moved? All - So moved. Seconded by Wayne Dimsdale – motion passed.

c. Fence at the WCSO Precinct

This issue was addressed by the Public Works Director Alan Barton in his report. Motion to table this issue made by Wayne Dimsdale and seconded by Kevin Shultz, motion passed.

**XIV. DISCUSSION ITEM**

**XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Kathy Dimsdale – None

Wayne Dimsdale – Park St looks really good. It is cut and manicured with the new pavement it look really good. I haven't seen anyone speeding anymore than they usually do. Carol – I almost got run over coming down here tonight. A guy in a black mustang was doing every bit of 60. Joe – that speed limit is 25. He was doing every bit of 60. He went past me. Mayor Lee - most of our citations come off Park St. Kevin Shultz – I've seen the deputies out there periodically. I've seen them out there alot in the last few months since it was repaved. Joe Reitman – isn't that super speeder?

There was discussion continued about speeding on Park St and the pros and cons of speed tables/speed humps.

Wayne Dimsdale – We need to get back on the red light at the Parkway and Park St.

Mayor Lee -Let me tell you I just got an email. DOT has approved the light and it is on the program to be installed. Kathy Dimsdale – but it has been approved. Mayor Lee – I understand that Kathy. I'd like to go down there. But it wouldn't do any good. But I got the email and the email came from Bruce Williamson the state rep.

Joe Reitman – so they are going to put in as red light? Lamar yes programmed and everything. So that is done. Joe Reitman – It usually takes someone getting killed to get one. Wayne Dimsdale – I'm going to hate this worse than anyone in town. They are going to back up right in front of my house.

Kevin Shultz – I don't have anything. Wayne took up all my time.

Carol Witcher – Yea I think we have some work out for us that we need to buckle down seriously. I think we have a good schedule to do it and the right folks to sit in there and get it done. As they say on tv lets "Git her done".

Joe Reitman – None

Mr. Mayor may I say something? Im sorry I don't know the procedure. That's fine with me. Kathy – could we get our name for the record? My name is Michael Newberry. Mr. Newberry expressed his concern with several break-ins in his neighborhood. Their pregnant neighbor was broken in on when she was away from home. She is extremely frightened. Within the last 3 months there have been a lot of break-ins. They were there to ask the Council if they would ask the Walton County Sheriff's Office to patrol more often. Mayor Lee explained it was brought to his attention and he contacted the Walton County Sheriff's Office and they have

stepped up their patrol of Cambridge to address this concern. Kevin Shultz explained how a neighborhood watch works and suggested they bring this up with the residents in Cambridge. Captain Daren Vinson of the Walton County Sheriff's Office is the officer who is over the neighborhood watch program. Joe Reitman – Kevin's idea of the Neighborhood Watch is a good idea. He explained what he has done at his own home to deter crime. Carol Witcher – explained they have a lot of foot traffic as well as cars and trucks. She explained she has everything at her home under surveillance too. Kevin Shultz – advised them if they are going out of town if they let the Walton County Sheriff Office know they will do extra patrol at their home.

Mr. Newberry - Thanks so much we appreciate your time.

XVI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**, *if needed*

ADJOURN

Kevin Shultz made motion to adjourn, Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion, Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this \_\_\_\_ day of November, 2016.

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Mayor Lamar Lee

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Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk