

STATE OF GEORGIA

CITY OF WALNUT GROVE

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01, PARLIAMENTARY
PROCEDURE AND PROCEDURES OF MEETINGS; TO PROVIDE ORDERLY
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City of Walnut Grove, Georgia is the Mayor and Council thereof; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City of Walnut Grove, Georgia desires to amend its code of ordinances to create an orderly and welcoming environment for public participation; and

WHEREAS, the City desires public engagement to promote transparency, responsiveness, and reflect the opinions of City residents through various mechanisms intended to promote efficient communication between residents and the governing body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Walnut Grove, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. That Section 3-219, Ordinance No. 2024-01 of Code of Ordinances of Walnut Grove, Georgia be hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

“Sec. 3-219.- Public Participation”

Public Participation in meetings of the city council is encouraged and shall be permitted in accordance with the following provisions:

- (1) *Public Comment*. The Public Comment portion of the City Council meeting shall take place prior to discussion of Old Business and New Business. Each member of the public who

wishes to address the city council must submit their name, address, and the topic of the comments to the city clerk prior to making such comments. Such an individual will be allotted three minutes to make their comments, and such comments must be limited to agenda items. These limits can be waived by a majority vote of the city council. During the public comment period, the Mayor and Council may ask clarifying questions.

By a majority vote, the city council may limit public comment on an agenda item that has been through the public hearing process. Permitted comments must be limited to the subject that is being debated. Anyone wishing to speak at any city council meeting must be recognized by the Mayor before addressing the city council. Members of the public may not share/donate their time and may only have one turn. Public comment will be allotted no more than thirty minutes or when each citizen who wishes to speak has spoken, whichever is sooner.


(2) *Public Hearings.* The city council may schedule public hearings for the purpose of soliciting public comment on any subject of interest to the city council. Hearings may be held immediately prior to or following a meeting of the city council or at such other places and times as the city council may determine. During a public hearing any individual wishing to speak must submit their name and address to the city clerk and be recognized by the Mayor before addressing the city council. Such an individual will be allotted five minutes to make their comments, and such comments must be limited to the subject of the public hearing. These limits can be waived by a majority vote of the city council. Members of the public may not share/donate their time and may only have one turn. Public hearings will have their own allotted timeframe from which they are scheduled.

(3) *Town Hall.* The final agenda item of the city council meeting shall be reserved for non-

agenda comments. During this period residents may address the Mayor and Council with any comment or questions not on the agenda. Town Hall allows for the Mayor and Council to address comments freely beyond clarifying questions. Any individual wishing to speak must submit their name, address, and topic of discussion to the city clerk forty-eight hours in advance and be recognized by the Mayor before addressing the city council. Such an individual will be allotted three minutes to make their comments. Members of the public may not share/donate their time and may only have one turn. Townhall will be allotted no more than thirty minutes or when each citizen who wishes to speak has spoken, whichever is sooner.


SO RESOLVED this 10th day of July 2025.

City of Walnut Grove, Georgia




Stephanie Moncrief, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lynn Heard, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



John J. Crowley, City Attorney
Powell & Crowley, LLP