

City of Walnut Grove City Council Meeting

Thursday April 9, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Council Present: Kathy Dimsdale
Wayne Dimsdale
Carol Witcher

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

II. Invocation

Invocation given by Joe Reitman

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the Agenda as presented was made by Wayne Dimsdale, seconded by Carol Witcher. All were in Favor. Motion Carried

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2015 City Council Meeting

Motion made by Wayne Dimsdale and seconded by Carol Witcher to approve the minutes as published.

No further discussion. All were in Favor. Motion Carried.

VII. Public Works Report

Director Alan Barton reported summer is here and grass cutting has begun. He and Alan Clark hope to get started next week planting flowers in the median of the parkway and laying sod in the round about. Wayne Dimsdale asked about water for the sod. Alan reported there is nothing in place at this time to cover keeping the flowers and grass watered. Alan continued by saying there is \$2,600.00 left in the project for sod and mulch. The walls in City Hall are complete and only a couple of the doors need another coat of paint. The cost for the project came in at \$1,400.00 which is under budget. One savings was the glass at the window which would normally have cost \$500.00 but he found this one for only \$50.00. The little building

behind City Hall has been jacked up and all that is left is to put the siding on it. He has been busy doing all these things along with keeping up with the sewage plant too. Next week they will dig ponds and the force main is at the same place it has been for the last 6 weeks.

Mayor Lee reported Jim Sunta from Precision Planning came by and said they would start digging the ponds on Monday. J. G. Leone requested money but their request was denied until he completes what was already asked of them. There will be a meeting to address these issues next Wednesday the 15th at 11:00 a.m.

Alan continued saying he needs to put up some signs and move the current city limit sign over by Carters. Paving will begin on Old 138 soon.

Wayne Dimsdale asked if the city limit sign would be moved up near Corn Dawgs. Alan explained the houses near Corn Dawgs are not annexed in the city at this time. Therefore the sign placement is currently correct.

Carol Witcher asked about the roundabout at the High School. Neither Alan Barton nor Mayor Lee has heard anything about the foundation for the statue. Graduation is May 14th and if it is going to be completed for graduation Alan will need to know by next week. Mayor Lee will check on it Friday the 10th. Alan reported his one year anniversary will be coming up on Monday the 13th of April. Alan reported he had a complaint today for cutting the grass in a ditch too close. Wayne Dimsdale commented that Alan had gotten a lot accomplished this year. Wayne Dimsdale commented the siding for the building behind City Hall was purchased 4 years ago.

VIII. Financial Report

The City Clerk provided the March financial report for all accounts. She reminded the Council they made a motion to table any approval of the February financials at the March Council meeting so they could be reviewed further. Both the February and March financials need approval. Carol Witcher made a motion the February financials be approved and this motion was seconded by Wayne Dimsdale. No further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Financial Report for February was approved as published. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion the March financials be approved and this motion was seconded by Carol Witcher. No further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Financial Report for March was approved as published.

IX. Clerk's Report

There were 21 citations issued, 4 from WCSO, 17 from GSP and there were none from WAC. There were 3 Business License renewals. Other permits issued were 1 HAV, 1 Temporary

Sign Permit, 1 Building Permit and 1 Petition for Re-zone. There were 18 Ball Park reservations made and 3 Pavilion reservations made.

X. Code Enforcement Report

Brett Davis, Code Enforcement Officer reported Mr. Hargrove on Magnolia Springs has requested a bench trial on the citation issued to him for running a business at his residence. Officer Davis has been focusing on the blight issues. He has issued the following citations, 6 on homeowners and 2 for vacant lots that need cleaning up.

Carol Witcher asked if Officer Davis takes photos of these properties. He responded he does and he keeps them in a file to use for Court if needed.

IX. Mayor's Report

- a. Truck – Monday Mayor Lee will be getting with Jimmy to find a truck. The cost should be around \$10,000.00
- b. Tractor – We have \$15,000.00 budgeted for a tractor. We should surplus the other tractors and put that money towards the cost.

Wayne Dimsdale said we should bundle other surplus items. Alan Barton added the old dump truck is just costing the City money for insurance on something we don't even use. He added he only has one decent weed eater and it has to be babied to even get it cranked. He stated we have to work with what we've got. He said he finally got the tractor cranked this morning. He bought 9 azaleas to plant in the median just as you come in off Hwy 138 into the parkway. He had to use the tractor this morning. He said he needs to cut the right of ways.

Wayne Dimsdale asked Alan if he had someone to follow behind the tractor in a truck when he cuts the right of way. Alan responded he has never cut it before. Alan also said he is not afraid of the traffic but is more afraid of the tractor itself.

- c. Lions Club – There will be a meeting on April 14th held here in our Municipal Building. After this first meeting the future meetings will be held at the Walnut Grove Public Library.
- d. Kevin Little, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Mayor Lee spoke with Kevin Little about Old Highway 138. He asked if they would top the surface after it is dispatched. He will send someone to see what it will take to top it to Cambridge.

Also Kevin reported the Board has approved in the Sheriff's budget monies for a full time secretary and a Captain to man the Walnut Grove Precinct.

XI. New Business

- a. Walnut Grove Public Library

Last year the City of Walnut Grove gave the Library \$49,900.00. They have requested an additional \$3,000.00 this year. The Mayor recommended the City only give the \$49,900.00 this year. Joe Reitman said he had already emailed the Uncle Remus Library and informed them they would probably not get this additional money because the City's budget is tight this year.

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion the Council go with the Mayors recommendation. Carol Witcher seconded the motion. No Discussion. All were in Favor. Motion Carried.

b. City Truck

Kathy Dimsdale made a motion the Mayor go ahead and purchase a truck not to exceed \$10,000.00. Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in Favor. Motion Carried.

XIII **Council Comments**

Kathy Dimsdale – No Comment

Wayne Dimsdale – No Comment

Carol Witcher –

Would like to appeal to the public to assist and support the library. She stated it is important that we maintain a Library. We are not a Loganville or a Monroe. We need a tractor and a truck to keep the City going. We have to take care of our worker's safety and the safety of the citizens. She stated she hoped the friends and representatives of the Library don't walk out angry over funding. She said our hearts want to give but the money just won't go any further. Ms. Witcher also addressed the information that keeps appearing on the Face Book page – They should improve their spelling.

Wayne Dimsdale said he and Ms Witcher met with the Masonic Lodge and they are going to try to raise funds for the Library and other areas of need.

Amy Hicks from the Walnut Grove Public Library addressed the Council and said she appreciates all they do.

Carol Witcher stated we don't have service organizations here in Walnut Grove. We are getting a Lions Club. The Lodge was outstanding. They want to help the town and Library.

Joe Reitman – It is nice to be back. It is good to see the new faces.

IIIX. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Wayne Dimsdale and seconded by Carol Witcher. All were in Favor. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Mayor Lamar Lee

City Clerk, Katherine A. Glass

