

# City of Walnut Grove City Council Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2015

7:00 p.m.

## **Council Members Present:**

Kathy Dimsdale

Wayne Dimsdale

Kevin Shultz

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 Kevin Schultz. All were in favor. Motion Carried.
- V. Public Comments  
John Pringle asked to address the Council and citizens present at the meeting. He wanted to invite anyone interested in the newly formed Lion's Club to see him after the meeting for additional information and applications for membership.
- VI. Approval of Minutes from April 9, 2015 City Council Meeting  
Motion to approve Minutes was made by Wayne Dimsdale, Kevin Schultz seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- VII. Public Works Report  
Director Alan Barton reported everything is going smooth since there is only one of me. I have a Community Service Worker working with me. Wayne asked if we had found anyone to take Alan Clark's position. Alan responded we had interviewed three prospects and hopefully one of those would work out. The treatment plant is looking good. They will start digging on the ponds next week. Leone is working on the force main they finally got started. They are using

dynamite to shoot these sections. They have a long way to go and a short time to get there. Maybe in 1 to 1½ weeks they should be laying pipes. The grass is growing and we are working with the lawn mowers we've got but we are going to have to have some more equipment. We will just have to see how everything works out. Hopefully we will get the new tractor this month. Then we can get some of these right of ways cut. That's about all I've got. Carol asked if he had cleaned out the Round About. Alan replied no they hadn't got that far yet. She said he might see her down there with her pink ball cap on. He told her that was all right. He reported he had decided to hold off putting the sod in right now. The sod would have to be watered twice a day. He would like to hold off and hope they will have water meter in the near future. He would hate to spend the money on sod and then fight and lose it. Wayne asked if we could wait till fall and plant but Alan said the grass wouldn't grow in the fall. Wayne asked if we couldn't run a water hose from the library. Alan replied it would only be a trickle by the time it got all the way down to the roundabout. Kathy Dimsdale asked about the roundabout in front of the school. Alan stated we do not have the dimensions for the statue so we won't get it done before graduation. Sean Callahan, Principal at WGHS, stated the statue will not be in for another two weeks. Mayor Lee added he has been in contact with Principal Callahan's administrative assistant and has the dimensions for the platform. As soon as the statue comes in he will get it installed and plant shrubs around it. Alan added when we hire for the vacant position he will start work on putting the siding on the building behind City Hall.

VIII. Financial Report

a. Approval of April Financials

Kevin Schultz made a motion the financials be approved, Carol Witcher seconded the motion; all were in favor, motion carried.

IX. Clerk's Report

- a. Citations issued: total 21, WCSO 8, GSP 13, WAC 0
- b. Business Licenses: none
- c. Other permits: HAV 1
- d. Ball Park Reservations: 20
- e. Pavilions Reservations: 5

IX Mayor's Report

- A. Wants Council members to think about having a fall festival in August
- B. Sanitation – the contract is up with Southern Sanitation. We can either sign another contract, or we can go month to month. Wayne Dimsdale asked if we have to put out bids before we can sign another contract. He was told no. We can just go month to month or sign another annual contract. Wayne stated we have gotten the best service out of Southern Sanitation than anyone we had every used. Mayor Lee advised we are losing money every month. Wayne suggested we raise the monthly fee. He asked how much notice we would have to give the customers before we raised the fee. We will vote on this next month.
- C. We purchased the truck at a savings of \$860.00 from the 10,000.00 limit that was approved.

- D. Public Works position - we have been accepting applications and have conducted interviews for this position.
- E. We are going to have the Old City Hall painted on the outside. The labor will be furnished by the Walton County Inmates we will only have to furnish the paint. Carol Witcher asked about the corner at City Hall being loaded down with advertisement signs. She asked if they had asked permission or if they were taking advantage. Alan stated he pulls them up each time he sees them. They only ones he doesn't pull up are the church signs. Wayne Dimsdale asked about Real Estate signs, said he remembered we used to let them put the signs up as long as they got them down by evening. It was a long time ago. They Mayor said now they go in the trashcan. Alan explained he throws them away. Wayne asked why he couldn't return them to the individuals. Alan explained he didn't have time to return all the signs. Wayne asked about the copper on the Old City Hall. He wanted to know if we could paint it. The Mayor said he plans on having it cleaned when we have the building painted.

X. Code Enforcement

Brett Davis apologized for being late to the meeting. Grass is the hot topic right now. We gave people a little leeway because of the rain. In Broken Arrow there were two citations issued, one for debris and the other for grass. In Cambridge Chase there were three citations written for grass. Over the last month in Emerald Cove we dealt with parking on the street. I explained if something is in compliance with my code I could not issue a citation or warning for a violation of their HOA rules. In Broken Arrow we had an individual put up a privacy fence and do some cleaning up. The Court has already issued him a fine. He is doing better. The focus is trying to beautify the City. Notices have been given to some about vacant lots and getting the grass cut on them. Wayne asked about a neighbor of the Mayor cutting his grass in squares. Brett Davis says he hasn't been able to make contact with him. Progress is being made and that is where we stand now. When he has been issued a citation he goes to Court, pays the fine and comes back and does it again.

XI. Public Hearing

Joe Reitman stated we are now in a Public Hearing. He read into the record the legal notice that was run in the Walton Tribune requesting the property at 2320 Leone Avenue in Walnut Grove be rezoned from C-1 to R-1. Hearing no comment the Public Hearing was closed. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion the property be rezoned back to R-1, Kevin Schultz seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

XII. Proclamation

The City presented Jake Peevy with a Proclamation. The Mayor read the proclamation and presented Jake with a framed certificate. A photo was made with Jake, Principal Callahan, the Council Members, Jake's parents and grandparents.

XIII. New Business

A. Purchase of New Tractor.

Wayne Dimsdale asked Alan Barton what kind of tractor we wanted to purchase? Alan replied it is a John Deere. The quotes were John Deere \$30,300 something and Kubota was 30,900 something. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion we purchase the John Deere for a price not to exceed \$31,000.00. Seconded by Kevin Shultz, all were in favor, motion passed. Alan was asked how quickly we could get the tractor. Alan said they don't have one in stock but will get one in and give him a call.

B. T-Shirts for the Walnut Grove High School

Carol Witcher asked how many shirts they wanted. It was 96. She wanted to know why the Booster Club didn't do the t-shirts themselves. She asked if this was the t-shirts they shoot up in the crowd and was told yes. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion we do the t-shirts and Kevin Shultz seconded the motion, all were in favor with the exception of Carol Witcher, motion passed.

C. Bill Board Sign Request from George Wells

Attorney Joe Reitman says there is nothing in the Ordinance to prohibit a billboard. Mr. Reitman said the Council needs to update the Ordinance on signs in the next 12 months. This property is currently zoned Commercial. Wayne Dimsdale stated when the council was beat before in a lawsuit regarding a billboard issue he thought we had something in our Ordinance to protect us. Mr. Reitman stated he came onboard as the City Attorney in 2009. He stated Covington's ordinance is jam up. We should talk to them about using theirs as a "go by".

Kevin Shultz suggested we submit Ronnie's plan to the City's engineers to see if the sign will obstruct sight of the traffic on the highway from the side road. Joe Reitman recommended we table the decision on the Re-Zone Request until next month subject to the report from our engineers. Motion to table decision until next month made by Kevin Shultz, Seconded by Wayne Dimsdale, all were in favor, motion carried.

D. Budget for 2015 -2016

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion we accept the Budget as presented. Carol pointed out Item #523901 listed as "other payments" needs to be listed as "Library" funding so it is obvious that is what it is. This way if the supporters of the Library are looking to see if we have funds in our budget for the Library it will be obvious. The Mayor pointed out that we will be addressing this on down in the Agenda. The Mayor pointed out there are several things that need to be renamed. Kevin Shultz seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

E. Request to appoint City Clerk, Katherine A. Glass, as Compliance Budget Officer This will enable the City Clerk to make changes to the Chart of Accounts.

Carol Witcher made a motion to appoint as requested, Kevin Shultz seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

- F. Request to appoint City Clerk, Katherine A. Glass, as Election Supervisor. At the present time the Mayor Lamar Lee is listed as our Election Supervisor in our City Ordinances. The city attorney said appointing the City Clerk is the normal operating procedures in most cities. The City Clerk is the one that receives the training on elections.

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to appoint as requested, Kevin Shultz seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

IX. Council Comments

Kathy Dimsdale – No Comment

Wayne Dimsdale – No Comment

Kevin Shultz – Stated it was good to see representatives of Walnut Grove High School present to support Jake Peevy. He also wanted to publicly congratulate Jake and his family and wish him well.

Carol Witcher – I am so glad that we have the two ladies that work in our office. They have made such a tremendous change in confidence in the office. They do a great job they are funny and they work in the best interest of this Council and this City. It is nice to have someone who looks after the Mayor and this office the way they do and I would just like to thank them.

Joe Reitman – Already covered

Mayor Lamar Lee – I have to admit we have two very competent workers.

II. Adjourn

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion we adjourn, Kevin Shultz seconded the motion, Mayor Lee asked all in favor stand. Mayor Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Lamar Lee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk

