

City of Walnut Grove City Council Meeting

Thursday October 8, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Council Present: Carol Witcher
Kathy Dimsdale
Wayne Dimsdale
Mayor Lee

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

Mrs. Sam Owenby thanked the City for having Old 138 paved.

Chad Rylee wanted to let the Council know he has a street light on his street that has been out for going on 4 years. It cuts on when it starts getting dark and then goes out. He was told by the City Clerk he would be contacted to get the information to have this reported to the Walton EMC and replaced or repaired.

VI. Minutes Approval

Motion to approve minutes for August was made by Wayne Dimsdale, Carol Witcher seconded the motion. All were in Favor. Motion Carried.

VII. Public Works Report

Alan Barton, Director of Public Works was not present at the meeting therefore there was no report.

VIII. Financial Report

a. Approve Expenses on Heritage Festival

City Clerk, Katherine A. Glass, presented expenses for the Heritage Festival totaling approximately \$4,067.75. She reported the committee working on the Heritage Festival has raised \$4,180.00 from sponsors and the profits from booth rentals. At this time she asked for approval of two expenses that exceeded the \$250.00 limit allowed in the City Ordinances. These two purchases were for 4 sets of wooden pumpkin trios for \$460.00 and an authentic 1800's Mayor Attire for \$437.75. **Also** the Clerk requested a line item for the Heritage Festival be added to the 2015-2016 Budget and a \$2,000.00 budget be added. She requested the \$2,000.00 be moved from the DDA account.

Joe Reitman added he had spoke to Kathy this afternoon regarding the line item request. He says it is legal and he has "blessed it". The festival does promote the City and that is what the DDA money was to be used for. The cleanest thing is to take the money out of the DDA fund for this purpose. Kathy added that everything that had been purchased would be able to be saved and added onto for the years to come. Carol Witcher said the committee had done a marvelous job on the festival in the amount of time they had. Motion made to approve the Financial Report as submitted by Carol Witcher, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale. All were in Favor. Motion Carried.

b. Sanitation Bills

City Clerk, Kathy Glass, stated she is getting a handle on the sanitation bill. PDQ Services, an outside collection agency, will be used to collect over 27 accounts and suspend service on 80 customers that owe in excess of \$100.00. The Mayor added Southern Sanitation will be providing large trash containers with the City logo on the side to the customers. He told the council members he would let them know if they get the contract worked out and if Southern Sanitation would be furnishing the cans. PDQ staff are trained to handle people with professional courtesy. They get a flat 16% of what they collect, off the top. They only get paid if they collect. Wayne likes this outfit.

Mayor Lamar Lee brought an Econo Signs quote to the Council for consideration. To be in compliance with OSHA we need several signs and other equipment for our Public Works Department. The quote was passed around to the council for their review. The total was \$1,254.90. Approved for purchase.

IX. New Business

The Christmas Tree Lighting will be November 28th around 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Meeting will be Thursday October 15th at Blue Willow. Please let Kathy know if you will attend.

The Horse has arrived at the WGHS. The Horse stands about 8' tall and about 9' long. The Horse has an Indian on top. He weighs about 1800 lbs. We are going to anchor it in

the ground. Wayne said, we can thank the kids that re in college for that. Yes, the Mayor replied, they worked hard to raise this money. When we get it all done I talked to Principal Shaun Callahan and we will have a ceremony inviting the class, as many as can attend.

X. Old Business

Wayne asked about the Sewer System. Leone has run the pipe under Hwy 138 so when we get that tied in we will be almost finished. They are finally on our side of the road. Lamar said don't quote me on this but they say they will be finished in November. Wayne told the Mayor not to let them forget about all the drive ways down Forrester Cemetery Road. They Mayor told him they had told him they would be taken care of

The DDA on the agenda was a total misunderstanding between Ms Kathy and me Dancing Waters is a little fountain. Kathy Dimsdale said it is a Splash Pad. We have called this company and they will send their representative next month and will give us a presentation. Carol asked where we plan to locate it. Wayne answered in the Park. Carol said this is such a good idea. It will bring our community together. Wayne said we had looked at two outfits. It was Kathy and them's idea. It is a great idea, if you have been to any, which we have. It puts families together. Carol Witcher stated the one in Savannah were so nice. Carol Witcher also brought up the natural water is so dangerous with the bacteria in it. It is scary. Wayne said the people who presented this say this water will be treated so there will be no bacteria. No one in Walton County has this. After much discussion the Council is looking forward to the presentation. Wayne said it had been discussed we would use the DDA money. It will promote the city. Joe Reitman asked if it was like the water feature at the Centennial Park in Atlanta. Wayne told him yes. There are different sizes.

Wayne Dimsdale – That road, Old 138, we repaved it last in 1996 and it has been done at least 4 times since. At one time the water had eaten the base out from under the road. Mayor Lee stated they had cut it way down this time. Wayne commented, they tell me this is the way to do it. Carol Witcher commented she had driven down the road since the paving was complete and it is really nice. Chad Rylee, a citizen, commented he wasn't able to walk with his children prior to the repaving because the cars were swerving way over to avoid the hole in the road and coming really close to the sidewalk.

The Mayor says the 2016 LMIG Project will be sidewalks all the way from Old 138 to the Old Fire Station.

Carol Witcher stated she hopes everyone is enjoying our new Walton County Sheriff's Office Precinct. Last Thursday we welcomed them formally with a reception. Stop in and say hello to them all and tell them how much we appreciate them being here. You can get anything here that you would need to drive to the Sheriff's Department for, warrants etc. Wayne Dimsdale also added they are trying to get a Kiosk placed there so you can purchase your tag here.

XI. Council Comment:

Kathy Dimsdale – none

Wayne Dimsdale – none

Carol Witcher – Just that now that you have been sitting here for an hour you realize we do listen to what you say. We appreciate you coming. A citizen asked if we would be having trick or treat for children at the Festival. The Clerk told her there would be a costume contest for the smaller children and they would be given a treat bag. It just happened to fall on Halloween this year but will not actually be on Halloween every year. The citizen asked where the Festival had been advertised. It is on our website, in the Tribune on banners and posters throughout the county.

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion we adjourn, Motion was seconded by Carol Witcher. Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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

Mayor Lamar Lee

Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk