

**WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2017
MINUTES**

Present at Meeting:
Mayor Lamar Lee
Kathy Dimsdale
Wayne Dimsdale
Carol Witcher
Joe Reitman, City Attorney
Katherine Glass, City Clerk

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

- II. **INVOCATION**
Invocation given by Joe Reitman

- III. **PLEDG OF ALLEGIANCE**
All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lee recognized two new people in the audience. They recently moved to Walnut Grove.

- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed, unanimous.

- V. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
NONE

- VI. **MINUTES APPROVAL: JANUARY 12, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented; Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed, unanimous.

- VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**
Public Works Director, Alan Barton not present, no report

- VIII. **FINANCIAL REPORT**
Financial Report was given by the City Clerk, Katherine Glass. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented; Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed, unanimous.

- IX. **CLERK'S REPORT**
Activity report given on all business licenses, citations, other permits and park reservations given by Katherine A. Glass.

- X. **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Craig Ellington, Code Enforcement Officer was not present at the meeting.

Report was given by Mayor Lee.

There were two inspections: Church at the Grove and The Dollar General Store. There were two citations issued and he followed up on business licenses that have not been renewed.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Turned over to Jimmy Parker with Precision Planning.

1. On January 11, 2017 the Mayor and Mr. Parker met with Chairman Little and Morris Jordan with the Walton County Water Department to discuss the Sewer Plant. The Sewer Plant is a joint project owned by Walton County and Walnut Grove. The County has proposed, not formally, conveying their half of the system to the City. Therefore the City would be the sole owner. The County did this partnership to enhance growth in Walnut Grove and help this area gain some commercial growth which also helps the county. The County is willing to pay a prorated share of the operating costs for five years, 50% of the operating costs for the first year, 40% the next, 30% the next then 20% and 10%. The County attorney is working up an agreement for consideration. It will be forwarded to Mr. Reitman and then presented to the Council. There was discussion on this matter.
2. Second Item is also related to the Sewer. Mr. Parker handed out a map showing the proposed sewer line extension from the Walnut Grove Parkway to Corn Dawgs. The County commissioned Precision to design this sewer line with two septic systems they were looking at spending \$160 - \$170,000 on these two systems. The cost for this sewer line including design, permitting, everything was about \$520,000. Chairman Little is supportive of the County paying half. State Route 81 Investments, LLC has proposed to purchase the equivalent of \$250,000 in taps on the new line up front to help fund the other half of this line. The City would apply that money toward the cost of the line. If you choose not to take this offer you will lose the investment the County is putting in. Looking at all those factors, it is Parker's recommendation as City Engineer to accept this offer, it serves the best interest of the City. It doubles the size of the collection system. It provides service to property on the Parkway, to the Calvert Property, to the State Route 81 Investment property, also to the residential properties across the street. Should one of them have problems they could tie on to the system. Also the area at Guthrie Cemetery Rd with all the school traffic could see some commercial growth.

Joe Reitman added his concern was to make sure the City would not be required to incur any of these expenses. These taps they are paying for cannot be used anywhere else in the system. Only on this new line. Should they ever sell the property, the taps would transfer to the new owner. If we move forward we need to have that point in writing. If it never gets built then they would get their money back.

There was discussion.

Carol Witcher made a motion that the City accept the proposal to move ahead with the County's plan to convey their interest in the sewer system, contingent on City Attorney, City Engineer and Mayor Lee's approval of paperwork from Walton County Board of Commissioners unanimously, Wayne Dimsdale seconded motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed unanimously.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Carol Witcher inquired about the opening of The Dollar General. Several spoke up and said the opening was going to be Sunday the 12th of February at 4:00 p.m.

The Council talked about a better police presence in the City along with the possibility of speed strips to reduce speed in neighborhoods. Jimmy Parker advised Monroe and Winder are using the speed strips successfully and they can be left for a period of time and then moved to a different location. He also told the Council; as long as you follow MUTCD guidelines and use signage properly you are covered from a liability standpoint.

Mayor Lee told the Council he would speak to Sheriff Joe Chapman about the hours at the precinct and more presence in the City.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kathy Dimsdale – None

Wayne Dimsdale – None

Carol Witcher – I would like to say we have a lot on our agenda coming this and we need to educate ourselves on them as much as we can. Maybe we should have a couple of workshops to set the tone of what we want to do and make it known to the public this is what we are going to be doing or considering.

Carol Witcher inquired about setting a work shop and was told by the City Clerk she is in the process of scheduling a work shop for the Council. Jimmy Parker suggested with the growth in development along with the sewer we should contact Joe Walter and Steve Sappington with Precision Planning for assistance with these areas. He was told by City Clerk, Katherine Glass she already calls them with any large commercial building or development. Jimmy Parker suggested they be at our work session for a review. It was also suggested by the Council it would be good to have Fire Chief Moore come as well as the Sheriff to update the Council on what they are doing in the City.

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to adjourn, Carol Witcher seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this _____ day of March, 2017.

Mayor Lamar Lee

Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk

