

WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Present:

Mayor Lamar Lee
Carol Witcher
Kevin Shultz
Wayne Dimsdale
Kathy Dimsdale

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

II. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Carol Witcher

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

City Clerk requested the agenda be amended as follows: Add September 18 and August 24 minutes to be approved along with approval of the September 14th minutes that are already on the agenda. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion we approve the agenda with these modifications. Kevin Shultz also added another modification. He asked that the Walnut Grove High School Report under XIII New Business be moved up to XII. Motion made by Kevin Shultz, seconded by Carol Witcher, opportunity for discussion, motion passed. Kevin Shultz made a motion to approve the agendas, Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

V. MINUTES APPROVAL: SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Motion made minutes be approved as submitted by Kevin Shultz, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Made by Mayor Lamar Lee – Alan Barton, Public Works Director, is still out with his shoulder on medical leave.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

City Clerk, Katherine Glass directed the Council Members to the report in their notebooks. Kevin Shultz made a motion to approve the financials as submitted; Wayne Dimsdale 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 Glass.

X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

None

XI. MAYOR’S REPORT

We will start Early Voting Monday October 16th and it will go through November 3rd. We have a new Code Enforcement Officer. His name is Grant Satterfield. He is a reserve deputy with Walton County Sheriff’s Office and his son is a deputy with Walton County.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Report from Walnut Grove High School – Shawn Callahan, Principal

Communities are built around schools and I think you need to know what we are doing. As we grow it may cause you guys some problems because we are doing some great things and people want to move here and go to school here. I think that is why it is important for you guys to know. Are we there yet? No absolutely not. But we are working toward our goal. I am basically going to give you an overview of the time prior to me being there and the three years since I have been there. Not that this is all me but just the things we have done to get where we are now. If you have questions please ask. When we leave here I would like you to be our voice and our cheerleader as well. Also it will allow you to answer questions when you hear them in the community. Dr. Callahan gave the history of Walnut Grove High School since he came there as Principal in 2014. He explained the growth of the school in numbers and that academically the school has improved as well. He explained their primary focus when he first came was the kids. They created a new vision statement. Which was basically to cultivate thinkers, teach students to have a voice and be prepared when they go into post secondary avenues? Whether college, university, vocational, work or the military. He further explained the opportunities the kids had. They can leave their sophomore year and get their college paid for and have a degree from a technical school or a two year associate degree from a college or university and it be paid for and then they can complete their school by age 20. I have several students who are doing that now and they will be juniors at The University of Georgia by the time they finish this year as seniors. Dr. Callahan showed on a power point presentation their discipline data. He further broke down and gave the top ten discipline infractions. He also broke down the discipline data by grade, time of the week and which three months were the heaviest. He explained most of the referrals came from students who were struggling economically in the home. The school is trying to address with the teachers how to work with those students. Out of 1630 referrals about 1,000 came from those students, which make up about 36% of the school. Dr. Callahan shared the data scores looked at by the State which showed gains in the last 3 years. Dr. Callahan explained Walnut Grove High School is a total Chrome Book School now. They used to use IPADs. Every student has one and takes it home with them. They can get

their homework, video clips from their teachers they can get assignments, do their assignments and send them to the teacher. The graduation rate was at 78% in 2014 but it is now at 86.2% which includes students with disabilities. This is the highest rate the school has had so far. Walnut Grove High School has made a real effort to team with the three elementary schools in our area. We had a mini conference hosted by Walnut Grove High School last January where we brought teachers from Walnut Grove Elementary, Youth Elementary and H. D. Atha Elementary Schools and our Middle Schools. The math teachers from these schools were talking with the High School Algebra teacher. Also the English teachers were talking to each other. We compare curriculum and look at the expectations of freshman students. Dr. Callahan explained, he takes High School Seniors to these schools and they took a video clip they had done with them and showed the 8th grades students. This is a huge help with transitioning these students to high school. A Leadership Course been implemented in The High School through the Fanning Institute at the University of Georgia. We have trained over 150 students 9th through 12th. They go through a 4 session leadership program that has now created a council that helps provide a voice for what they would like to see at the High School. They have a Warrior Day (field day) and they also have a recognition program where students are recognized for doing good deeds. Their goal is to do 2,000 recognitions through the school this year. We have a program to train teachers so they can work with kids that learn differently. Community in Schools has been a great help in Walnut Grove High School. He gave an example of a parent that needed transportation to get to work. Her car was repaired through this program. When asked as a Council what they could do to help the school Dr. Callahan replied the council could be a voice and be an advocate to reach people the school doesn't reach all the time. Dr. Callahan thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to give an update on the school.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Intergovernmental Agreement for Installation of Sewer Main and Allocation of Costs Thereof Between Walnut Grove, Georgia and Walton County, Georgia** - Kevin Shultz made a motion to table this issue until the next scheduled City Council Meeting, Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed unanimously.
- B. **Code Red Contract**
City Clerk, Katherine A. Glass – The City Council voted not to renew the Code Red Contract but when the City Clerk contacted them she was told the contract had automatically renewed for three years. However when the City Clerk explained why Walnut Grove wanted to cancel the contract they came up with a proposal of 1 year and they cost is cut from \$2,500 to \$1,500. After one year this contract will expire if we don't renew it. Kevin made a motion we approve this contract, Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEM

None

XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kathy Dimsdale – Thank you to Sean Callahan

Wayne Dimsdale – Thank you to Sean Callahan and I want to apologize to Sean Callahan for not stopping the truck that tore down the fence at the roundabout today. I called the police but by the time they came he got away.

Kevin Shultz – Thank you to everyone who came out and to Sean Callahan thank you for all you do. My daughter was a graduating senior this year. She is now at Brenau University living the dream. She received almost \$12,000 in academic scholarships per year.

Carol Witcher – I would like to thank Dr. Callahan. My heart is in education. I’m excited to know this community can put out quality education. Maybe this Council can be more involved by coming and speaking at the school.

Mayor Lee – Thank you to Sean Callahan.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Kevin Shultz made a motion to enter into Executive Session, Seconded by Wayne Dimsdale, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

Motion made to go back into Council Meeting

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion the City of Walnut Grove terminate our work relationship with Lambert Reitman & Abney, Seconded by Kevin Shultz, opportunity for discussion, motion passed unanimously.

The Council agreed Mayor Lee would contact Preston and Malcom to see if they would be interested in representing the City of Walnut Grove.

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Shultz, opportunity for discussion, motion passed unanimously at 8:36 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this 9th day of November, 2017.

Mayor Lamar Lee

Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk