

City of Walnut Grove City Council Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 2014
7:00 P.M.
Walnut Grove Community Building
1021 Park Street
Loganville, GA

Council Present: Kathy Dimsdale
Wayne Dimsdale
Kevin Shultz
Carol Witcher

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee at 7:00 P.M.

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 Shultz.

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2014 City Council Meeting

Motion made by Kevin Shultz and seconded by Wayne Dimsdale to approve the minutes as published.

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

VII. Public Works Report

The new Public Works Director, Alan Barton introduced himself to the council, happy to be aboard with the City. Old swings repaired, toddler swing built and ready to go. New swings, slide, fort and sandbox all built for the children to enjoy at the Park. All City limit signs now in place, 1 at the High School and 1 at Highway 81 N at Corndawgs. Trees all cleaned up from the recent storm damage. Greenhill Way tree has been professionally taken down and cleaned up. Next project will be the old building at City Hall. Mr. Barton asked that if the council sees anything in the city that needs his attention to please let him know.

VIII. Financial Report

The City Clerk provided the April financial report for all accounts.

Wayne Dimsdale made the motion to approve and seconded by Carol Witcher to approve the Financial Report as given and published.

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

IX. Clerk's Report

Walton County Sheriff's Office issued 20 citations and Georgia State Patrol issued 22 citations

1 Electrical Permit Issued

23 Ball field Rentals

7 Pavilion Rentals

X. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lee said he had been under the weather but getting better every day. GEFA loan has been approved and paperwork has been signed.

Interest rate is exceptional at .062 on an 850,000.00 loan. Todd Parker with Precision Planning has been handling things and is present to answer any questions. Bids will be let out the last week of May or the 1st of June. Construction could possibly start before the summer is out. Glad to be back and handling business.

Wayne Dimsdale asked if we could do something about the roundabout damage, such as putting chains and poles up. Vehicles are driving right through the middle of the roundabout and it just looks awful.

Carol Witcher also questioned the roundabout at the High School, it needs some attention. Kevin Shultz stated that an Eagle Scout had done work on the roundabout, but just not very visible.

Mayor Lee stated that he is fully aware of the issues with both roundabouts and had already discussed the Parkway with Alan Barton and has tasked him with solutions. As for the High School roundabout, the city put extensive work into the area in preparation of the placement of an Indian mascot, and the mascot ended up in the lobby of the High School instead.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A) Library Funding

City Attorney, Reitman addressed this, stating that he had attended a meeting on behalf of the City, with members of the Library Board, Steve Schaeffer and the State folks. The meeting had a very positive tone and there was good communication and dialogue between all parties. All involved came together and agreed on the already paid \$15,000.00 with an additional \$41,000.00 to be paid by the City for a total of \$56,000.00 for the 2013-2014 budget year. The agreed amount for 2014-2015 will be \$49,900.00, which will allow 40 hours a week which is above the state requirement of 30 hours that was originally discussed, and should provide good service for the citizens.

So, for the record, the motion will be to approve the additional \$41,000.00 to finish out the fiscal year, then commit to \$49,900.00 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year contingent on this being a one (1) year contract, the library will be responsible for seeking and securing the additional \$10,000.00 from outside sources, and the library will be responsible for providing a breakdown of their budget to City Hall.

After 2015, this situation will be discussed again and possible changes made.

There were no questions from the public.

Kevin Shultz made the motion to accept as presented by Counsel.

Carol Witcher seconded the motion.

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

B) Lady Warriors Softball 2014 Season Sponsor-Kevin Shultz expounded on the details, this is the same sponsorship as last year \$250. They will reuse the sign from last year, so we can renew instead of it being a new sponsorship costing \$300. Sign will be located along the fence but due to construction, will be moved down from the spot it had last year. Will still be visible, just moved closer to spectators or behind the dugout on the visitor side.

Wayne Dimsdale made motion to sponsor the \$250, seconded by Carol Witcher.

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

C) Pink Out Sponsorship-Youth Middle School Softball - \$500-it was pointed out that the city has sponsored this event for several years, in fact Councilwoman Carol Witcher threw out the first ball in 2012 as a cancer survivor. The sponsorship not only provides a sign to promote the city, but helps purchase socks and jerseys. Kevin Shultz made the motion to go ahead with sponsorship of \$500, seconded by Carol Witcher.

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

D) Walnut Grove United Methodist Church 8th Annual 5K run on July 26, 2014-Jenny Hendricks requested the approval of the Council for the event, a copy of the route was submitted as well as intentions for security, and times.

Kevin Shultz made motion to approve the event, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale.

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

E) Approve Execution of GEFA (Georgia Environmental Finance Authority) Loan-

Joe Reitman advised that he has reviewed the paperwork and everything appears to be in order. No reason to not proceed. Wayne Dimsdale made motion to sign and submit paperwork. Motion seconded by Kevin Shultz.

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Budget-

A budget proposal should have been received by all council members for them to review and make changes, suggestions, etc. Wayne Dimsdale questioned the training budget, couldn't it be cut? Mayor Lee stated that no, probably not due to new personnel needing classes for certification.

Carol Witcher stated that she thought the money spent on items such as CodeRed was money well spent.

Council was advised that this was simply a tool to look over, that there would need to be public hearings and a vote, but to be thinking about it.

XII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Carol Witcher just glad to be here and thanked both the Alan's for helping her recently.

Kevin Shultz thanked the library and the board for its interest and willingness to try and reach amicable solution so that the citizens and children of the community can all enjoy the library. Through much hard work and heartache, we were able to reach such an agreement. Will see where things are after the year. Don't want to have to enact property taxes, as he lives here too and doesn't want to pay them either, but may not be too far off.

Wayne Dimsdale stated he's a dollar watcher. Would like to cut the budget and make sure the money is well spent. Won't ever vote for a city tax. Citizens need to become more involved, nobody wants to step up and participate in council. We need new thoughts and ideas. The city has come a long way, such as making the Park a wonderful place to come to, the community building was completely paid for when construction was complete. Money issues scare him. Want to see exactly where money goes. Borrowing \$800,000 is awesome, & we will have a sewer by this time next year. Looking for it to bring new business and what the citizens need to the community. Will also have another park here soon put here by the County that will have a ball field, fire department and police precinct like Meridian Park.

Kathy Dimsdale had no comment

XIII. ADJOURN

Kevin Shultz made motion to adjourn, Kathy Dimsdale seconded motion

All In Favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Approved by the Mayor and Council this _____ day of _____ 2014.

Mayor, Lamar Lee

City Clerk, Ariann S. Stone