

City of Walnut Grove City Council Meeting

Thursday July 9, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Council Present: Kathy Dimsdale
Wayne Dimsdale
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

Mayor welcomed and introduced Mike Moore who is representing the Walnut Grove Lion's Club to the Council.

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

None

VI. Approval of Minutes from June 11, 2015 City Council Meeting

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

No further discussion. All were in Favor. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes of the Called Meeting for Budget 2015-2016

Motion made by Wayne Dimsdale and seconded by Carol Witcher to approved the minutes as published.

No further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

VII. Public Works Report

Alan Barton, Public Works Director reported all was quiet in the City. The grass is growing. He told the Council about the new employee Eric Norman who was hired in his department. He is a good worker. The building at the City Hall has been painted and the rocks have been put under it. The well house has also been painted. Inside City Hall the kitchen and conference room have been painted. We have been cutting grass and weed eating. The new tractor is nice and we are getting a lot done. Leone is laying pipe but I don't think they will make their deadline. Alan reported he has been supervising seven boys from Walnut Grove High School who are performing 30 hours community service. They have painted the lines on the tennis courts, basketball court and the parking lots. Another adult community service worker has weed eating. Eric Norman was a community service worker who was ordered to perform 240 hours and has worked with me until he finished. He has now been hired by the City and works in the Public Works Department. Wayne Dimsdale asked how the lawn mower is holding out. Alan told him it has a hydraulic leak in the rear end. He said he could get by till winter time. Joe Reitman recommended a place in Madison (706-342-4046) to have it repaired. Alan told the council it wouldn't hurt to be looking for another lawn mower for next year. Carol Witcher told Alan the sod at the library looks rough. She asked if it needed to be fertilized and if we should do it or if they do. Alan told her he picks up their signs where they have the lawn treated. Carol asked if we pay their water bill or if they do. Mayor Lee told her we do.

Carol told the council she had received a complaint about the Tire Store. The water collecting in the tires bothers me environmentally. When water collects the mosquitoes multiply. Mayor Lee told her they had checked with the Tire Store and had been told the trailer with those tires in it is emptied every two weeks. Carol stated people must be educated about water that collects.

VIII. Financial Report

- a. Approval of June Financials
 - i. Motion made by Wayne Dimsdale to approve Financial Report, Kathy Dimsdale seconded the motion; all were in favor, motion carried.

IX. Clerk's Report

- a. Total of 33 citations issued
 - i. WCSO issued 25
 - ii. GSP issued 8
 - iii. WAC issued 0
- b. There were no business licenses issued
- c. Other Permits – none
- d. Ball Park Reservations – 16
- e. Pavilion Reservations – 5

Wayne Dimsdale asked about the HAV permits. He saw a house on Hwy 81 doing some work and asked if they had come in and got a permit. The Clerk informed him a man did

come in (she didn't write down his name) and asked about getting a permit. He had called before he came in and we had checked with Precision Planning and we were told just changing out a unit is "maintenance" and if they changed out everything (the duct work too) then they would need a permit. When this man came in he was asked if he was changing out all the duct work and he stated no. He was told he did not need a permit. Wayne said it looked like he was changing out the ductwork at the site he saw on Hwy 81. Joe Reitman suggested our Code Officer go out and inspect these jobs when we see them to insure they have the proper permits. Mayor Lee said we just go by what they tell us when they are asked what work will be done. Carol Witcher suggested we change the codes to make them read stricter. Joe Reitman suggested August would be a good time for him to come and work on the City of Walnut Grove's zoning and codes.

X. Code Enforcement Report

Brett Davis apologized for missing last month's meeting. After researching the property off Valley Drive, the Walton County Tax Office shows there are delinquent taxes due. A relative inherited the property. The property will be sold at the Courthouse at auction in October. There is a double wide, a metal shop and another small building on the property. Brett advised he is drafting a letter to send to the owner. Joe Reitman advised he has a sample letter Brett can use. Brett continued his report with telling about the problem this week with trash blowing across from the Chevron. He spoke with the management there and they are now having their trash picked up twice a week. They will also keep an eye out for additional trash and keep it picked up. The grass downtown is being cut. On Church Way Mr. Gladson was issued a warning about junk. He was told next time he would receive a citation. The tree issue was resolved since the last council meeting. The only other issue was about an animal control issue. Brett advised he met with the director of Walton County Animal Control. They are in agreement that Walton County is totally responsible for these issues in Walnut Grove. Joe Reitman stated Walnut Grove citizens pay taxes and deserve to have the same services as other county residents. Brett also reported the Emerald Cove citizens are happy he had stopped and spoke with them.

XI. Mayor'

Sewer Updates

We have issues with both contractors. The spray fields that have been put in have to be taken out and redone. Mayor Lee reported he has a meeting in the morning with Jimmy Parker with Precision Planning. Leone knows EPD is coming on July the 10th. They are running tractors through mud holes and pushing the muddy water under the silk fence. We've had 2 or 3 meetings with Leone. He has assured us we would have something in writing Monday but he didn't come by on Monday. Mayor Lee advised the Council at the GMA Conference he met someone who collects past due accounts for

municipalities. She is going to come out to Walnut Grove and see what she can do for us. Wayne and the Mayor also spoke to Todd Long with DOT regarding a red light at Park St. Carol Witcher said she knows Wayne and Kathy will be glad. Wayne said when school starts as a home owner he would hate it but as a council member we need it. The Mayor said when we built the parkway the engineers put the sensors in for red lights. That will cut the cost. Wayne stated we already have the turn lanes too.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. New Business

Septic Tank issues at the Pavilion on Park Street

Mayor Lee advised the roots from the pine trees have grown into the drain lines. The only thing we can do is put in a chamber system. The tank itself is fine. Alan Barton guessed the cost of the chamber system would be about \$3,000.00. Mayor Lee said we need to get bids for about 125'. Carol Witcher wanted to know what time frame we were working with. The chamber system will be the cheapest option. Alan Barton stated you want to disturb the ground as little as possible. Carol asked if we need to put the job out for bids. Joe Reitman said that would bring better prices with the competition for the job. Kathy Dimsdale suggested Alan Barton have three different contractors come out and give bids. Wayne suggested after we get the three bids then the Mayor could call the council to get a vote on which one to go with. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to accept bids on the chamber system not to exceed \$4,000.00 with the Mayor's approval. Kathy Dimsdale seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

XIV. Discussion Items

None

XV. Council Comments

Kathy Dimsdale – none

Wayne Dimsdale – none

Carol Witcher – stated she enjoyed the classes she took in Savannah at the GMA Conference. She also appreciated Brett talking to Walton County Animal Control. Her neighbor called Animal Control and was told they don't take care of Walnut Grove.

Mayor Lee – recognized Mr. Moore and told him he was glad to have him here tonight.

XVI. Adjourn

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to adjourn, Kathy Dimsdale seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. by Mayor Lee.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this _____ day of August, 2015.

Mayor Lamar Lee

Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk