

City of Walnut Grove City Council Meeting

Thursday January 14, 2016

7:00 P.M.

Council Present:

Carol Witcher
Kathy Dimsdale
Wayne Dimsdale
Kevin Shultz
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

Kevin Shultz made a motion and Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. MINUTES APPROVAL

Kevin Shultz made a motion to amend the Agenda changing the date of the Minutes from December 11th to the 10th. With this change Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to accept the Minutes as published and Kevin Shultz seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Public Works Director Alan Barton was absent therefore there was no report given.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT – The City Clerk provided the January financials for all accounts.

IX. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported a total of 16 citations for the month of December 2015. The 16 citations were all written by Walton County Sheriff's Office. There were 21 Business Licenses renewed. There were two permits issued, one Building permit and one electrical permit. There were no pavilion or ball field rentals.

- X. **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** – Brett Davis – Apologized for being absent the last few months. It has been quiet within the city limits. Has been dealing with the same ongoing properties, Greenhill Way, Church St. and Woodland Drive. At 715 Woodland Drive they will clean up and then it will get cluttered up again. It seems it is just their life style. I have the same problem on Habersham Circle. No complaints from citations. I continue to concentrate on the four points in downtown. Behind Sunoco it continues to grow up. It costs him \$500.00 to clean this lot because it is rough. Carol Witcher stated there is no recourse when a verbal warning is given. I would like to see a list given to us stating a verbal was given. Brett replied if I give a verbal warning to John Higginbotham on such and such a date trying to get him to build a fence but he has no money to build a fence he still has no money to build a fence. Carol replied it is 2016 we have played this game for four years. When you buy something you take on that responsibility. When we rewrite these ordinances we need to revise them. Joe Reitman stated he has rewritten the ordinances for Social Circle and Newborn and they would work well for Walnut Grove. All we need to do is insert the name Walnut Grove. Then Wayne Dimsdale asked if there were any difference standards for a residential and commercial lot? He stated I have a commercial lot that is overgrown. Do I have to cut down the trees and clean it up? Brett said it depends on where it is. Mr. Calhoun's is on one of the four corners. We had an instance where we had a person tear down an old house. It is zoned commercial. He can't clean that up. Carol said it is like going to the prom in purple shorts, a green shirt and no shoes. Dress code is the dress code. Same way the city is to be run. It comes down to a matter of opinion do we talk about the weather and fit it into the matter or not? I've tried to repair relationships and I think it has gotten better. Carol told Brett she applauds the fact he has used common sense. If it is in the city limits we should have aesthetic standards. Joe said we need to be clear on our ordinances. Wayne said the last time we re-did anything we adopted what Monroe had done. Carol said, we need to re visit our ordinances. A tree is not brush.

XI. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

On December 11th we had our Christmas Dinner. It was good. On December 17th we hosted the Municipal Association Christmas Dinner. It was well attended. The

demonstration for “Dancing Waters” has been rescheduled for February 11, 2016. Residents of Walnut Grove have received their garbage cans from Southern Sanitation. The boys have been painting during this bad weather. The office is looking good. The Sewer Plant is completed. We are ready for the taps. They are just cleaning up now. Wayne Dimsdale asked if we have anyone wanting to tap on? The Mayor replied yes. The horse is in at the High School. Kevin Shultz said it looks really good. Kevin asked who put the poles in the road. The mayor replied not us. Kevin said they don’t look good. They didn’t get permission. The County probably did it. Wayne Dimsdale said “that is not a county road”.

XII. **OLD BUSINESS** – None

NEW BUSINESS

(A) Installation of Elected Officials

- a. Joe Reitman swore in Mayor Lamar Lee
- b. Joe Reitman Swore in Council Members Carol Witcher and Kevin Shultz

(B) Election of Mayor Pro-Tem

- a. Carol Witcher submitted her name for nomination of Mayor Pro Tem. She listed her qualifications and all the classes she has taken. She stated is at home and available 99% of the time She enjoys taking classes and meeting people. Kevin Shultz made a motion Carol Witcher be accepted as Mayor Pro-Tem. Kathy Dimsdale seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(C) Appointments:

City Clerk: Katherine A. Glass
Deputy Clerk: Sonya R. Cox
Public Works Director: Alan Barton
Code Enforcement Officer: Brett Davis
City Attorney: Joe Reitman
City Engineer: Precision Planning
Municipal Court Judge: David Dickinson

- (D) Approval for membership of the Walton County Chamber of Commerce - \$315.00 for the year 2016. Kevin Shultz made a motion we continue our membership for the year 2016. Carol Witcher seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

- (E) Change the amount under day to day spending needing Council approval from \$250.00 to \$500.00. Joe Reitman said, “I would say \$500.00 is low. With a 2 person check signing system, I personally

would go a little higher. Mayor Lee stated is has gotten harder to operate daily with this limit. Kevin Shultz recommended it be \$1,000.00. Carol Witcher asked “is our budget going to hold that. Mayor Lee said it would. Kathy Dimsdale said \$500.00 would be fine. Wayne Dimsdale said when it goes over he calls me to come and sign off on it. Carol Witcher said \$500 is a good conservative amount. I just want to make sure we have our checks and balance system. She also stated when calling someone to sign off on purchases it should rotate. Kevin Shultz made a motion the amount should be raised to \$1,000.00. Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion. Motion carried.

XIII. DISCUSSION ITEM

Joe Reitman stated it is time to do something with the zoning ordinances this year. I have a draft of Social Circle’s and it would make sense for Walnut Grove. We need to let Walnut Grove’s engineer take a look at it too. Just “food for thought”.

Carol Witcher said she would like to have a work session and planning meeting for 2016. Wayne Dimsdale stated we usually do that at budget time. Carol stated she would like to do it now before six months passes, a work shop – sit down and brain storm. Wayne stated to Joe Reitman that he had a question on revising the code regarding an allotment on sewer and several other things. We talked about this to keep undesirable things from coming in and taking up our capacity on the sewer system.

XIV. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Kathy Dimsdale - none

Wayne Dimsdale – none

Kevin Shultz – none

Carol Witcher – Thank everyone for your vote of confidence in voting for me as Mayor Pro-Tem.

XV. ADJOURN

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion we adjourn. Kevin Shultz seconded the motion. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this _____ day of February, 2016.

Mayor Lamar Lee

Katherine A. Glass, Clerk

*****Recording device failed – there is no audio back up to this meeting.***

