

**WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016**

Present at Meeting:

Mayor Lamar Lee

Carol Witcher

Kevin Shultz

Kathy Dimsdale

Wayne Dimsdale

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

*Meeting called to Order by Mayor Lee*

**II. INVOCATION**

*Given by Joe Reitman*

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE**

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Motion made by Kevin Shultz to approve the agenda, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale, Motion Passed.*

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**VI. MINUTES APPROVAL:** June 9, 2016 City Council Meeting

*Motion Made by Kevin Shultz to approve the minutes, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale, Motion Passed.*

**VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Given by Alan Barton, Director

Discussion of the building to house the electrical and operational systems at the Sewer Plant. We had a meeting at City Hall several months ago where Kevin Little and Timmy Shelnut agreed we need the building. I took the plans from Jim Sunta with Precision Planning and got a price on a building that is a complete setup, insulated and everything. The price I got has everything except electrical and the office which I will build out later. It will have to have lights, a heater and a ventilation fan. We can get the price on that later. Of course the County will be responsible for half of that too. I just want to bring this before you now. Mayor Lee - The price is \$9,263.20. Carol Witcher – Is that our price or the price after the County pays their half? Mayor Lee - The County will pay for half. The price for the County is \$4,631.60. Wayne

Dimsdale - will it have a cement pad? Alan Barton – no. Jim Sunta agreed we don't need it. It will be on gravel. That would just be extra money spent. Mayor Lee - we can put in a wooden floor in the office area. Alan Barton - We will have to have a file cabinet and a bench to set your laptop on, when you go in there. And a place to keep material and parts over there for the strainer. Anyway we have to have a place to keep all that. That's why we are building it the size we are building it and to have that little office in there too. We will build a little 8 x 8 office in there and that will be all we need. You've got to have a place to keep all the records in there. When EPD comes they want to sit down right there and look. The forms have to be there. Carol Witcher – So we can get a file cabinet from FISH at a very discounted price? The furniture that goes in that little office we can consider FISH instead of going and purchasing something new? Mayor Lee - we probably will have something at the office we can use. Alan Barton – We just need something so to keep the records dry. EPD, they don't play. Carol Witcher – I know they don't. That's why we need to be aware of what we are doing. Alan Barton - Right now, that is the quote I got on the building. I took the plans I got from Jim Sunta to T. H. Mize and they are working up a price on the electrical. I guess we will go over that next month. We are trying to get this done before winter time gets here.

Another thing, as you go out of the park next to the gate, we have a tree that is dead. Half of it is dead and half of it is not. We have to take it down. Scarborough Tree Service quoted \$400 if they take it down and we clean it up or \$800 if they take it down and they clean it up. This is something you will have to make a decision on. It is a hazard. Carol Witcher - did we get three bids on that or just one? Alan Barton – No we just got one. They are the one we have been using all along and they do us a good job. We have gotten three before and they always beat everybody else. Joe Reitman – Maybe in the future when you have one that is not so time sensitive. Since you are under a thousand dollars you are fine proceeding with that. Is it dropping limbs? Alan Barton – Just about it. Joe Reitman – Then I would encourage y'all to go ahead and approve it. Alan Barton – Between the road and the power line I had two. Carol Witcher – Is it a pine tree? Alan Barton – Yes

Wayne Dimsdale – did we get three bids on the steel building? Do we have to? Alan Barton - No. Joe Rietman – Under twenty grand on roads and sidewalks and usually buildings as long as you are under \$100,000 you are ok last time I checked. It's been a couple of years. You are well under either threshold because you are what, four thousand something each? Alan Barton – well the thing about these metal buildings like this. You have several people who sell these and they all come from the same place. So I mean there probably isn't going to be a nickels worth of difference in the price. They come from North Carolina. But you have several people that sell them. Kevin Shultz – That DK Ground Works where are they at? Alan Barton – They are up there on 78. Carol Witcher – I know that guy personally and he really is a nice guy as far as doing business with him. I'm just not trying to be an ogre about things but I'm just thinking maybe in the eye of the public it looks better if we have more than one bid. Then you can stand up and explain. I don't care if they are higher or lower but at least we have something that kind of keeps us out of trouble. Mayor Lee – But that right there Joe we are still in good shape. Joe Reitman – Yes, but like Carol said public perception issues you've got to use your discretion in a situation like that, the time frame, what is the public perception. It is

not a legal question so much as a practical question. You've got to go with what ya'll are comfortable with. Alan Barton – So that is just something for y'all to think about. Wayne Dimsdale – So are we going to get a price on the building and the electrical all the work you are going to have to do to it and we are going to split it with the County? Mayor Lee – yes, the County will pay half of everything we do on the sewer plant. Carol Witcher - is this the bottom line with putting the flooring and the little room? Alan Barton - No that right there is just the outside hull. That is just the building. Carol Witcher – Ok. Alan Barton – that is insulated, the doors up, installed and everything. Ready to put the wiring in it and the little office. That is them setting it up and everything. Carol Witcher – Ok.

Alan Barton - Looks like Park Street is coming along good. I think they have done a real good job. Mayor Lee – I had a report on that. I talked to Jimmy Parker. He called me just before I left.

Alan Barton – Also, the Bush Hog. Whatever ya'll decide on that. We got the bids on that. Wayne Dimsdale – What was the bid on that? Alan Barton – It was \$2,650.00 on the John Deere and \$2,800.00 on the Bush Hog. Mayor Lee – What size were they? Alan Barton – 6 foot.

The John Deere or the Bush Hog brand are both good. Carol Witcher - is it better to have the 6' or the 10' looking down the road? Mayor Lee – 10' won't work cutting the right of way. Alan Barton - No cutting right of way we can't use a 10'. The one we have now is a five footer it goes from one side of the road to the other. I don't have much to work with.

Whatever you decide on the bush hog. We are going to have to have one. The right of ways need cutting again but I have been putting it off. I hate to run over them twice. It won't cut them good the first time.

Wayne Dimsdale - What will we do with the old bush hog? Mayor Lee – I don't know. Put it down there with the other stuff.

Wayne Dimsdale - We need to have liquidation down there so you will have more room

Alan Barton – You might get a little out of the dump truck and a couple of tractors.

Carol Witcher – Alan could I request you give us an inventory. Alan Barton - You already have it at City Hall. Kathy Glass – We have it itemized for insurance purposes. Joe Reitman – there are forms for liquidating property such as this.

Alan Barton - Everything else is going pretty smooth.

Joe Reitman – Other than a little legal issue. We got that handled Alan Barton - Yes. Mr.

Reitman handled this situation. Joe Reitman – So far so good? Alan Barton – yes, so far so good. Alan Barton – Yes so far so good.

Joe Reitman - If it doesn't, we have a sympathetic audience up there. Alan Barton - Yes, I was pleased with the outcome of that deal. Mayor Lee - Anyone have any questions for Mr.

Barton? Alan Barton - If you want me to get more prices on the building. I will. That is up to y'all. As long as we get everything before it gets too cold. Delivery time is six weeks. They will set it up in one day. It will be fully enclosed and insulated. Wayne Dimsdale – It will be fully anchored too won't it? Alan Barton –It has 10' walls and roll up doors. It will be a gable roof with a 6' overhang so water won't run back under. It will have extra bracing too. I don't see how you can get one cheaper. Carol Witcher – As our counsel says, the way the public views

everything. I think it is in our best interest to do a CYA. It is not my intention to belittle all the hard work you put into it. I appreciate all the work you put into it.

Mayor – I have a little report on that.

**VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk directed the Council and Mayor to the financial report in their books. Mayor Lee – Is there a motion?

Motion made by Kevin Shultz to approve the financial report, seconded by Carol Witcher, motion passed.

**IX. CLERKS REPORT**

There were 37 citations issued during the month of June. Walton County Sheriff's Office issued 18, Georgia State Patrol Office issued 13 and the Walton Animal Control issued 6. There were no business licenses issued or licenses renewed. There were no permits issued. There were 8 ball park reservations made and 5 pavilion reservations.

**X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

New Code Enforcement Officer Craig Ellington was introduced to the Council by the Mayor. Joe Reitman swore the new code enforcement officer in.

**XI. MAYOR'S REPORT**

I'll give you a little update on Park St. - I just talked with Jimmy Parker before I came over here. They will be completely through by Monday. We are going to be pretty close to our original price we were given. He also said it looks good and they are doing a good job.

The building at the sewer plant is something Alan already covered. We will look at that a little later but we need to get this done before winter sets in.

Annual Heritage Festival will be coming up. Suggestions are welcome. Kathy Dimsdale and Brenda Lee will be happy to hear your suggestions. That is coming up pretty quick.

Annual City Employee picnic on Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> held here in the Municipal Building at noon. You can see Kathy Dimsdale and Brenda Lee regarding the picnic.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Bush Hog

Carol Witcher – I make a motion we accept the John Deere Bush Hog quote. Kathy Dimsdale seconded the motion, motion passed.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Removal of tree at Walnut Grove City Park

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to let Scarborough take down the tree. Wayne Dimsdale – I think we can clean it up. Can't we? Kevin Shultz -The more they do the less the costs. Alan Barton -There are three more in the City but they are not on the right of way. Kevin Shultz - Are there any others in the Park on the city property? Alan Barton - No, not I know

of. Mayor Lee - The only thing about this is it is right at the gate and the power lines. If it ever drops it will get them.

Kevin Shultz seconded the motion, Motion carried -Just drop the tree and our staff will clean up.

#### **XIV. DISCUSSION ITEM**

Kevin Shultz - Now that Park Street will turn into a race way because that is what happens with newly paved roads. They turn into a speed way. I recommend we look into putting in speed bumps. As much as the road will be traveled by kids going to the high school. Traffic enforcement isn't always the best answer because they can't be everywhere at all times. I know they work in the city of Jersey. People are big fans of them but it is just a recommendation I would like to look at. Wayne Dimsdale – Mr. Attorney we looked into this a few years ago. We had liability concerns as a City. Joe Rietman - now they are used so much more they are not the liability issues they used to be. They have them in Madison, Jersey, Bostwick, everywhere. It has come a long way. I have not heard of any successful litigation against cities on these. There are different variations of speed bumps, humps, tables, etc. Jersey has the speed tables instead of the speed humps.

Kevin Shultz - I'm not a fan of them. I will have to drive over them every day coming home from work. That road is heavily traveled. There are a lot of kids and families that walk up and down this street now with the High School here. When we looked at the speed humps before we didn't even have a high school here. The more cars we have on the road the more we will have to pave. The speed humps will help protect the citizens as well as the City's assets. It will make cars go out other streets to avoid the speed humps. Wayne Dimsdale – what kind of money are we looking at? Anybody know?

Carol Witcher – What if we form a committee and see what is involved. Speak to other citizens of Jersey and other small cities. Speak to them and take pictures and bring it back and speak to the entire council. Wayne Dimsdale – We can let Joe check and see what he can find out. Kevin Shultz – Jimmy Parker can get the information. They can engineer it and see where they would be placed. Wayne Dimsdale – I would still like for Joe Reitman to get the information. Joe Reitman – I can email GMA legal counsel and that way you are paying virtually nothing to get a legal opinion.

Alan Barton – If we can get the school buses to use Guthrie Cemetery Road instead of coming down Park St. it would help a lot.

I went to the County Commissioners Meeting Tuesday night. They awarded the money for widening Guthrie Cemetery and to put in the turn lanes decel and accel lanes. I talked to Jimmy today and he said they will start in two weeks. They will put a light in because of the fire station. They will run the sewer line up to Corn Dawgs before they start construction on the buildings. That is what I was told in the meeting Tuesday night.

Kathy Dimsdale - So Corn Dawgs is in the City limits? Mayor Lee - Yes all the way up to Green Rd. Three acres will be deeded to the City where the fire station sits. Carol Witcher – When will they start the fire station? Mayor Lee – As soon as they finish the work on the road. I have a meeting with Kevin Little and Timmy Shelnutt next week.

#### **XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Carol Witcher - Thanks for applying for the position. Welcome to Walnut Grove. We are expecting great things from you. If you need us you know where we are.

**XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF NEEDED**

**XVII. ADJOURN:** Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Shultz, Motion Passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of August, 2016.

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Mayor Lamar Lee

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Katherine A. Glass