

WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

THURSDAY MAY 12, 2016

Present at Meeting:

Mayor Lamar Lee
Carol Witcher
Kathy Dimsdale
Wayne Dimsdale

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to Order by Mayor Lee

II. INVOCATION

Given by Carol Witcher

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion made by Wayne Dimsdale to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathy Dimsdale –
Motion Passed

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. MINUTES APPROVAL: April 14, 2016 City Council Meeting

Motion made by Wayne Dimsdale to approve the Minutes as presented, seconded by Carol
Witcher – Motion Passed

VII. PUBLIC HEARING:

#1. 2016-2017 Budget Hearing – Lee Abney, Attorney

Hearing opened to the public. Each person shall have 5 minutes to comment on the 2016-
2017 Budget. There were no comments. Public Hearing closed.

VIII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Given by Alan Barton – Public Works Director

Everything is going fairly well. Equipment is finally dwindling down. A dry pump went out on
the SKAG mower. I took it to get it worked on. It needed a whole new housing on the left side.
We have had only one mower for two weeks. We got out an old mower and pieced it together.
We need to think about replacing it. We also need to look at the bush hog. The one we have
came over with Noah. It has holes in it and is rusted. I've been trimming right of ways on the
road. It is liable to tear up any minute.

The quote on a John Deer bush hog 6' wide, which is as wide as the tractor, is \$2,850.0. I got a quote for Bush Hog and theirs was \$2,699.00. The two are practically the same. This is not the best but it is not the worse. It is in the middle. It will cut down a two inch tree but we are only using it to keep the right of ways clean.

I don't know if we need a lawn mower worse than the bush hog.

They are digging up the spray field. It is 50% dug up. We started running the sprinkler heads to handle the dust. We are running some county water to keep from draining the ponds. I took a reading on it and we can try to get Lanier to pay the water bill. If not all of it then at least half. Mayor Lee – It is their fault we didn't get the fields finished before hot weather.

Everything else is going pretty good.

Wayne Dimsdale – What will it cost to repair the lawn mower? Alan Barton – It started out being \$500.00 but now we are in the hydraulic system. Hopefully we will get out for \$1,000.00. The lawnmower is seven years old. We cut grass five days a week. We use the weed eaters and lawnmowers every day.

Carol Witcher – Would it be possible to give a copy of your quote to Kathy so she can put a copy in our mailboxes? Alan Barton – Yes.

Got the price on the bush hog from Madison where we bought the tractor. They gave us a good price. John Deere would cost anyone else \$3,300.00. The City got a discount of \$500.00.

The sidewalks are looking good. They are all edged and blown off.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORT

Given by Katherine A. Glass, Clerk

The financials are in your notebook. Let me know if you have any questions.

Carol Witcher made a motion to accept the financials as presented, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale – Motion Passed.

X. CLERK'S REPORT

There were 15 citations issued in the month of April. Walton County Sheriff's Office issued 2 and Georgia State Patrol issued 13. We issued 3 new business licenses. We issued two temporary signs. They were real estate signs. We issued one land disturbance permit. That one was to the Dollar General. We had 21 ball park reservations and 3 pavilion reservations.

XI. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Sonya Cox – 721 and 731 Thompson Lane called City Hall to let us know they are in the process of cleaning up their yards. Mayor Lee – Alan and I are riding the City and seeing what needs to be done. We are with a code enforcement officer at this time.

XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

The budget is taken care of. We discussed the budget in our work session.

Public Works – We have problems on Thompson Lane. The owner of three of the properties, Bruce Williamson, is agreeing to fix his properties. He will pay for the culvert on his three if we do the ditches.

Dollar General – Jimmy Parker has turned down some stuff from them. But everything has been looked at and agreed on so it is ready to go. We should have them breaking ground any

day. Also me and Chairman Little discussed the Fire Station. Precision Planning is working on the design. They are almost ready to start the construction. The ball fields will not be built this summer. McWaters gave additional land to the county. They will build a walking trail around it. Wayne Dimsdale – Any words from the D.O.T. about widening the intersection? Mayor Lee - Not anything recent. Alan Barton – The next thing will be Lawrenceville Gas will come in with a 12" gas line.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Church At The Grove – Certificate of Occupancy with Contingency

Mayor Lee – The Church has 12 months to finish the outside of the building with stucco and rock. If they don't finish in 12 months they have an additional 12 months to complete the project. Carol Witcher – If they don't finish in a year we need to be checking what they are spending their money on. Lee Abney – I don't think they would want us checking their records. Kathy Dimsdale – They should have done it right to begin with. Kathy Glass – Let me ask, will the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy stay in place while the attorneys are working out the agreement? Lee Abney – Yes

Carol Witcher made a motion we require them to finish within 1 year and take out the 2nd year option, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale – Motion Passed. The Temporary Certificate of Occupancy with contingency will remain in place.

b. Phone System for City Hall

Kathy Glass - The quote for the phone system is in your notebook. It is for three phones. The total is \$2,183.24. Wayne Dimsdale – Is that a phone for you, Lamar and Sonya. Kathy Glass – yes. Kathy Dimsdale – What is wrong with the phone system you have now. Kathy Glass – It is obsolete. I cannot retrieve my messages. I had a password but it no longer works. So if someone calls City Hall and leaves a message for the Clerk they will not get a call back. It probably says my mailbox is full. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion we purchase the phone system for \$2,183.24, Carol Witcher seconded the motion – Motion Passed.

c. Late fees for Sanitation fees paid late

Mayor Lee – Sonya will speak about this. Sonya Cox – I collected about \$4,451.00 this month. Today I mailed out 50 more letters with a copy of our City Ordinance stating that the home owner is responsible. These were mailed today. I would like to ask you about implementing a \$10.00 late fee for accounts 30 days past due and suspend their trash pickup. I think this would help cover the cost of postage, the envelopes and stationary. I have spent countless hours preparing letters that I could have spent doing other things. Carol Witcher made a motion we add a \$10.00 late fee to any account over 30 days past due, Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion – Motion Passed.

XV. DISCUSSION ITEM

Mayor Lee – Ms. Witcher, you have anything you want to say? Carol Witcher – I would like to applaud Sonya for the way you have handled the sanitation. Wayne Dimsdale – I would like to do the same thing. She is like our bounty hunter. Have we heard about any other development coming in? Mayor Lee – not at the present time.

Wayne Dimsdale – I called the Mayor the other day about the traffic. I asked if the officers would direct traffic. After we got an officer they got the traffic moved. Kathy Dimsdale – we shouldn't have to call because they should be able to look out the window and see the traffic backed up.

Kathy Dimsdale – Thanks to Alan and Sonya and the boys for all their hard work.

XVI. COUNCIL COMMENTS
None

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to adjourn; Carol Witcher seconded the motion – Motion Passed.

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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

Mayor Lamar Lee

Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk

