

**WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY JULY 13, 2017  
MINUTES**

Present at Meeting:

Mayor Lamar Lee  
Wayne Dimsdale  
Kathy Dimsdale  
Carol Witcher  
Katherine Glass, City Clerk  
Joe Reitman, City Attorney

**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**

Carol Witcher made a motion to amend the Agenda to add under New Business to include item for discussion (a) Ad Valorem Tax and to implement the Executive Session; Wayne Dimsdale seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed, unanimous.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VI. MINUTES APPROVAL: JUNE 8, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to approve the Minutes; Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed, unanimous.

**VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Given by Alan Barton, Public Works Director

We have had rain, sun and lots of cutting grass. That is about all that is going on is cutting grass, keeping dirt out of the streets and picking up trash. Carol Witcher asked about the signs at the Methodist Church. She wanted to know if they should be there or if it was against our City Ordinance. Mr. Barton said he usually turns his head regarding the signs and considers them exempt. Mr. Reitman The way it works is there is something called RLUIPA and it is an acronym for Religious Land Use Institutionalized Persons Act. They may not be totally exempt but it means treat them with "kid gloves". If they have something that is a clear violation then I would talk with them and try to work through it. There was further discussion regarding the signs in the City. Mr. Reitman - I would encourage you to look at the City Ordinance and what it says about temporary signs. Look at this carefully before you talk

to anybody. There was further discussion regarding the City Ordinance and whether the Sign Ordinances have been updated. The City Clerk will research this issue especially regarding the temporary signs. Joe Reitman suggested the City Clerk look at the minutes to see exactly what was approved when Joe Walter, with Precision Planning helped the City update their ordinances. The City Clerk will look up the information and email all the Council members, Mayor and Mr. Reitman.

#### **VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk directed the Council to their report in their notebooks. Wayne Dimsdale made a motion to approve the financials as submitted. Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed, unanimous.

#### **IX. CLERK'S REPORT**

Activity report given on all business licenses, citations, other permits and park reservations given by Katherine A. Glass. There was discussion about the permits issued.

#### **X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Given by Craig Ellington, Code Enforcement Officer

Since we last met I've been keeping an eye on neighborhoods and their grass. With the rain the grass has really been growing. I have given people a lot of leeway. Only people that are really obvious and haven't been cut in a long time I have issued six notices of ordinance violation for grass cutting. All six are in compliance now. I have one notice I issued yesterday for an abandoned vehicle in Cambridge. Wayne asked about a resident on Park Street who looks like he is running a garage out of his residence. Mr. Ellington told him he would check on it. There was further discussion about other similar instances in other areas of the city.

#### **XI. MAYOR'S REPORT**

- EPD did their final inspection on the Sewer Plant yesterday. We will have our permit and be ready to go. The EPD representative liked what he saw and was impressed with our plant.
- The Council Members, Mayor and City Clerk went to the GMA Conference.
- The footings have been poured on the new Fire / EMS Building.
- The Walnut Grove First United Methodist Church will have their annual 5K run on Saturday July 22nd from 7:00 a.m. till 8:30 a.m.

Joe Reitman – While we are under your report, I guess you have an engagement letter with your auditor each year. It is a state law you do an annual audit. Mr. Reitman advised the Council they need to authorize the Mayor to sign an engagement letter with the auditor for the year 2017-2018.

We probably need to put this as a formal motion to add to the agenda to hire auditor for 2017-2018. Wayne Dimsdale, so moved Then we can vote to authorize the Mayor to sign an engagement letter.

#### **XII. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Second Reading of the Sewer Ordinance
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Ad Valorem Taxes
- XIV. DISCUSSION ITEM**
- XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS**
- XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**