

WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

7:00 P.M.

Present:

Mayor Lamar Lee
Carol Witcher
Kevin Shultz
Mark Moore
Linda Pilgrim

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

II. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Alan Barton

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion made to amend and approve agenda by Kevin Shultz, seconded by Mark Moore, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Rezone for Jon Dial Property

Public Hearing was turned over to Mike Malcom, City Attorney. He stated he had spoken with a representative of the owner as well as the developer. In each Council's package is a drawing of the proposed rezone. After discussion with the owner and developer a recommendation was made that we table this matter in order for the Council to be able to look this over and digest it. A Constitutional Letter was given to me before the meeting by a representative of the owner. Kevin Shultz made a motion the Public Hearing be tabled until our next regularly scheduled meeting, motion was seconded by Carol Witcher, opportunity for discussion, motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: JANUARY 11, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Motion made minutes be approved as submitted by Kevin Shultz, seconded by Mark Moore, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

VIII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Alan Barton, Director of Public Works – We’ve been working on our streets the last couple of weeks. Trimming trees, cleaning up the roadways, washing signs, changing old signs out and getting all the mold and mildew off the ones that are dirty. We’ve got some ditches, with these heavy rains, they just need digging out where they can carry all the debris down the ditch instead of out in the road. We had several incidents yesterday that washed a lot of debris out in the road. We are going to get all of them taken care of in the next week or two. I noticed today they brought in a piece of equipment to clear the right of way on the sewer line extension. Maybe they will get started with that right away.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

X. CLERK’S REPORT

Activity report given on all business licenses, citations, other permits and park reservations given by Katherine Glass.

XI. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Grant Satterfield, Code Enforcement Officer - I have been helping with the business licenses going around checking and reminding them that they do need a license. We have been working with one of our residents that have a problem with dumping a lot of their driveway into Old Hwy 138. It is right past Cambridge. There are three things I usually do. #1 I give them a notice of Ordinance Violation. This is a simple piece of paper that shows most of the violations we encounter and what the ordinance says. I have four of these pending. I had 17 that are already resolved. If this doesn’t work then we go to an official warning of notice to comply. I have four of these outstanding. There is only one that might make it to the last stage which would be a citation. I actually had to issue two citations this month. These are both people I have been working with since November. The reason I gave them so long is the holidays. That is it. Thank you.

XII. MAYOR’S REPORT

We met with Precision Planning and Universal Underground Utilities to discuss running the sewer line to the new fire station this week. We got all that worked out. We had the new Walton County Bicentennial Flag delivered to Walnut Grove on Thursday January 25th. We flew it on our flag pole overnight and then we delivered it by John Deere tractor to Jersey. They carried it from there to Social Circle. So it has been a Bi- Centennial parade I guess.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Speed Zone Ordinance

Mike Malcom – We were mandated by GA DOT to adopt these speed zones that they have recommended in order to allow speed detection devices on these roads. Councilman Shultz was kind enough to go out and double check what they had designated. Kevin Shultz – In going through our previous speeding zones there are several that need to be changed. The main thing was Walnut Grove Elementary School has never been inside the City limits of Walnut Grove. For some reason it is on our speed zone ordinance. We removed it from our speed zone ordinance. Another major thing was the last time this was done we didn't have Walnut Grove High School. I have added the school zones for the high school. On Park Street from the roundabout from Walnut Court to the roundabout should be 35 mph not 25mph. Somewhere along the lines the signs were changed. The 25 mph zone is from Walnut Court to Hwy 81. It makes more sense because the roadway is curvy through there. Those signs upon council approval should come down and 35 mph signs should be put up in their place. Those are the only changes I found. The City Clerk has forwarded these changes to GA DOT and it will be reviewed on Monday. If they approve it we will get our final copy. If not they will send someone out to review the changes. Mike Malcom – We will consider this a first reading since there are changes. Then we will have a second reading at our next meeting. There was further discussion regarding the speed on Park St. Mark Moore made a motion to make Park Street a 25 mph zone pending DOT approval, seconded by Carol Witcher, opportunity for discussion, motion passed unanimously. Alan Barton – I guess I need to change the signs back to 35 until we get the 25 approved. Kevin Shultz explained if someone gets a ticket for speeding on Park Street if they get a copy of our speed zone ordinance their ticket will be dropped. Captain Vance with Walton County Sheriff's Office is aware of the wrong signage so they are not enforcing speed on Park Street until we fix the signs. Mike Malcom – So we will consider this the first reading and we will wait to hear from DOT.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

None

XV. DISCUSSION ITEM

None

XVI. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kevin Shultz – Thank you for coming out. We anticipated a public hearing on what I consider a pretty exciting project for the City. What I looked at so far seems promising for the growth of our City. I look forward to working with the people and Council to see this project come to life for more opportunity for people to live and shop in Walnut Grove.

Mark Moore – Thankful for opportunity for an investor to come in our City and help us. I would like to see more detailed reports so we make sure it falls within what the citizens of Walnut Grove would like in the growth of this City. I do appreciate everyone coming out and bearing with me at my second council session.

Linda Pilgrim – Thank you all for coming out. This is my second meeting too. Please call me if you have concerns that I can help you with.

Carol Witcher – I concur with what everyone else said. One of the things I would like to see in the development proposal is what will happen to the natural landscape that is there. We are becoming a Tree City formally on Saturday from the State. I will be in Athens on Saturday at an event planned to give us the title of Tree City officially. The old Council certainly knows that I am a tree advocate. I do not like to see things destroyed that don't get replaced. I would like to know what your plans are to protect the landscape.

Kevin Shultz made a motion we adjourn, seconded by Linda Pilgrim, Motion carried unanimously.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this ____ day of March, 2018.

Mayor Lamar Lee

Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk