

City Council
Walnut Grove City Council Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

Present:

Mayor Lamar Lee
Carol Witcher
Linda Pilgrim
Mark Moore
Kevin Schultz

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

II. INVOCATION- Given by **Councilwoman** Carol Witcher

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the pledge of allegiance

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Councilman Shultz made a motion to amend the agenda by adding under new business item "B" Trees on Park St., **Councilman Moore-** seconded the motion, motion passed.

Councilman Shultz made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, **Councilwoman Pilgrim**, seconded the motion, motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Renee Temple of 102 Springview Trail, Loganville. She wanted to speak on the subject of Ms. Wallace's Temporary Business License which is on the agenda. She stated Ms. Wallace is her neighbor and she wanted to state her concerns about Ms. Wallace having a business license in her residential area. They live in a cul-de-sac. She gives swimming lessons and if there were an emergency an ambulance or the fire department could not get in because of the cars belonging to her customers. Also, this area is not zoned for a business in our subdivision. This area is zoned R-1 which is residential 1 which doesn't have commercial at all. She passed out pictures to the Council members of the cars parked in the cul-de-sac. She passed out pictures showing the cars park in back of driveways, block the mailboxes the mail carrier cannot get in and they also prevent trash pick-up. She passed out a

printout from Ms. Wallace's Facebook page showing she does have a business in their subdivision. Ms. Temple stated other neighbors complain as well even though she is the only one present at the Council meeting tonight. She stated she didn't think she should have a temporary license or otherwise due to the area they are in. She stated there is not a dressing room for her clients and they often change their clothes there in the cul-de-sac from their swimsuits into their street clothes.

STEPHANIE MONCRIEF of 2150 Emerald Drive, Loganville, GA

She has been following the meetings and wanted to talk about the neighborhood cul-de-sac. She wanted to reiterate the danger of having the median in the middle of the cul-de-sac. Not just for the bus routes but for emergency vehicles as well. If a resident wants to move, they must pay extra expenses because a moving truck can't get in there either. When she was reading over the notes, she agreed with a lot of what was said and appreciated the Council considering doing it. She stated she knew it is an expense and she didn't remember who came up with the idea of having Walton County do it but that is a good idea. She addressed a comment made about her and stated she has taken care of her neighborhood for the past 15 years. She stated she has notified her neighborhood of the possibility of the City taking care of this cul-de-sac.

VI. MINUTES APPROVAL

June 13, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilman Moore stated there needs to be a slight change on page 4 the third line needs to read "and" instead of "or". **Councilman Shultz** made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, **Councilwoman Pilgrim** seconded the motion, motion passed.

June 13, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes

Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2019 Public Hearing, **Councilwoman Witcher** seconded the motion, motion passed.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Given by Alan Barton, Public Works Director

He stated he had posted the signs the Lion's Club brought to the City Hall which show they take care of the Parkway. They have been cutting a lot of grass and when it has rained, they have taken the opportunity to repair things that need it. There are several problems that need to address. One in Cambridge there is a storm drain that rusted out one time and now it has another place in the bottom of it. It is between two houses and it is making a sink hole in their yard. We will have to either repair it or dig it up and replace it all. I would hate for a kid to come along at night and fall in it. Councilwoman Pilgrim asked if this was something the City could do. Alan Barton stated the City doesn't have the equipment to fix it. He

stated the City would probably have to take bids on replacing the whole thing. Councilman Moore asked if this was the only drain that needed repairs. Alan Barton said Precision hadn't inspected any in the subdivisions. This one was brought to the City's attention by a homeowner. Councilman Moore asked if the City could have Precision Planning take a look at all of them? Alan Barton replied it would be costly because of the length you would have to run a camera down them to see. He has checked the ones he can see in. The State got a grant from the federal government to clean up brush and tree limbs to open up the highways so when there is snow and ice the sun can get to it and thaw it out. They are working in Walnut Grove now and it is looking good. Councilman Moore asked, what is the status on the sidewalks? Alan Barton said he had talked to Jimmy Parker and they are working on it. The City Clerk added part of the delay is the sidewalks are on two State highways, 138 and 81. DOT has to permit it. After approval it will be put out for bids. Alan Barton stated he wanted to get bids on resurfacing the basketball court and the tennis court. The courts are in bad shape. He also stated he spoke to the crew that resurfaced and re-lined the parking lot at the Baptist Church and they were supposed to come by and give a price on resurfacing the parking lot here. Councilman Moore – asked if anyone ever used the tennis court. Alan Barton said yes, several families come during the day. Councilwoman Pilgrim – asked about whether there might be grants available since it is a City Park. There was discussion about doing something for the older kids in Walnut Grove. There was also discussion about a Pickle Ball Court for older adults.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

The City Clerk stated the Bank Statement Balances on all accounts is in Council member's books along with the financials. Councilman Moore made a motion the financial report be approved as presented, Councilman Shultz seconded the motion, motion passed.

IX. CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk gave a report of all activity during the month of June.

X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

No Report, Code Enforcement Officer not present.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Billy Coleman got his land disturbance permit for Phase I at the Dial property. This will include fifty homes.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Emerald Cove Subdivision Roundabout

Kevin Shultz stated this was tabled until we could get citizens' approval from the members of the Emerald Cove Subdivision. Since Stephanie Moncrief, the HOA President has come and given a report that the homeowners are in favor of the City repairing this center in the cul-de-sac. I am satisfied to go forward with the discussion. I would make that motion to get that started. Councilman Moore asked about Walton County? Alan Barton – what me, Jimmy Parker and Mayor Lee talked about was instead of putting an apron around this we could just go in and take the center out and make it a regular cul-de-sac. That would be the cheapest route. I talked to the Board of Education today and they said it would be a go. They would take the bus all the way to the end and pick up the kids. We just need to let them know when have it complete. We will get some prices on that. I don't know if the County will come in and do any of the work. We might can get some of their rates for material. If Stephanie can get a letter of approval from the HOA in Emerald Cove that would be good. Councilman Shultz withdrew is motion to proceed. Councilman Shultz made a motion we table this issue until the next meeting so we can look at the bids and make approval to start the project, Councilwoman Pilgrim seconded the motion, motion passed.

B. Cost of General Business License

Mike Malcom addressed this issue. There was some discussion in Savannah in one of the classes given to the Council about whether the cost of a business license is treated as a tax or as an administrative fee. I reached out to the experts, the ones who actually lobbied for these laws to be passed at the State. Both the teacher at the conference as well as Counsel for GMA and I got two diametrically different answers. I think to be safe we probably should hold a public hearing before raising the cost of a business license and treat it as a tax even though we have always treated it as an administrative fee. The safe thing for the City to do would be to treat it as such. City Clerk, Katherine Glass asked since this was voted on three people had come in and applied for a Business License and paid the \$125.00 fee. She wanted to know if she should just refund them the \$50.00 difference. Mike Malcom agreed she should just write a letter explaining and refund the difference. This will need to be advertised like a zoning matter and a public hearing will be held. Councilman Shultz made a motion to table this item until our next regularly scheduled meeting after we have a public hearing on this issue, Councilman Moore seconded the motion, motion carried.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Temporary Business License for Dawn Wallace

Councilman Moore asked what kind of a liability would this be for the City to allow her to teach swimming at her home? Mike Malcom stated it wouldn't be a liability for the City would be the issue but whether it would be a permitted use under the zoning.