

**City Council**  
**Walnut Grove City Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 13,2019 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 Carol Witcher
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
All stood for the pledge of allegiance
- IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:**  
**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to amenda the agenda by adding under new Business:  
E. Bill from Maloys Auto Service  
F. Bill from Precision Planning  
G. Bill From Preston and Malcom  
**Councilwoman Pilgrim-** seconded the motion, Motion Passed  
**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to approve the amended agenda, **Councilman Moore**, seconded the motion, Motion passed.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
None
- VI. MINUTES APPROVAL:** May 9, 2019 City Council Meeting  
**Councilman Schultz** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented,  
**Councilwoman Witcher** seconded the motion, motion passed.
- VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Public Works Director not present, no report.

**VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT:** Given by **Katherine Glass- Clerk.**

**Councilman Moore** – And I have a question, I need clarification on item number 52.4000, we have an expenditure of \$97, 662.76 on street, sidewalk and curb repair, can you clarify what this expense is for? **City Clerk- Katherine Glass-** We paved Cambridge Chase, we did the deep patching and came back and it looked really rough so the council voted to pave it. **Councilman Moore-** Here is the question that I have, back in December when we approved the paving to go ahead and pave, that should be in our minutes and I should have a copy here it shows that the paving was going to come out of our SPLOST account and it showed we had \$277,000.00 in the SPLOST account to cover that paving and why is it now coming out of general fund? **City Clerk- Katherine Glass-** I would have to go back and look. I know we paid for the deep patching out of SPLOST. I just don't remember I thought we were paying for the paving with the tax money. **Councilman Moore-** I am just curious where that \$277,000.00 went to? **City Clerk Katherine Glass-** It is still in the SPLOST account if we didn't pay it out of there. **Councilman Moore-** Do we have a balance of the SPLOST account? **City Clerk Katherine Glass-** I don't have the SPLOST account balance with me. **Councilman Moore-** I do not see them on the financials. **City Clerk Katherine Glass-** This actual vs. budget is on the general account, I don't bring the account balances on the other accounts with me. **Councilman Moore-** Maybe that is something we should think about in the future. **City Clerk Katherine Glass-**I will be glad to bring them in the future. **Councilman Moore-** I just wondered if we can get clarification on where those funds, like I said I made my vote on paving Cambridge Chase based upon the funds coming out of the SPLOST account and now it is coming out of the general funds. **City Clerk Katherine Glass-**That line item is streets, sidewalk and curb repair. I will check and see how the council voted but, that would have lined up with how that 97,000 that is in there would have been in used for part of that tax money. **Councilman Moore-** Like I said I just voted on it in the December council meeting but that's ok if we can just get that clarified.

**IX. CLERK'S REPORT:** Given by City Clerk Katherine Glass

**X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** Code Enforcement Officer not present, no report.

**XI. MAYORS REPORT:** Glad to see everybody, getting a good little crowd and I would like to see it full everytime. Precision Planning has started the process of the bidding of the sidewalks downtown and we have got that in process. Also I would like to give my Condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Moore for the passing of her father Mr. Johnson. I guess that is about all I have to say tonight.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS:** **City Clerk Katherine Glass-** Emerald Cove subdivision, Alan was getting concrete bids and he is not here tonight so I didn't know if y'all wanted to... **Councilman Moore-** Yes, I have got a question about the round-about and I followed Councilman Shultz's advice and I went over there and took a look at that.

The only way to eliminate that circle is to do away with it and make it into a culdesac I don't believe pouring concrete will fix it and I also agree with Councilwoman Pilgrim it has been that way for 20 years. And so I would like to see something in writing from the Walton County Schools requesting that it be addressed and fixed for our bus routes and second is working with the Emerald Cove HOA to make sure that they are on board to eliminate that round about and turn it into a culdesac because it don't actually go with their sub-division and if we can get them both on board I think we can get that taken care of. It's like an ounce of prevention because I would hate for them to come back and say why did you do that without asking us first. **Councilman Schultz** - I make a motion that we table that item until we can get back a couple of different scenarios. Alan will be back with his estimates on the concrete portion and at least hear that and to what Councilman Moore said something from the School System and the issues that they are having. And then something back from the Emerald Cove HOA and the leadership on what their thoughts and feeling are on that. It is a city street and we are obligated to repair and fix it, just kind of get their feelings on it. I don't think they would have an issue with it as long as it was done and done correctly as long as it looks good and not horrible. So I just make a motion that we table it based on those until we get some more information on those other items. **Councilman Moore**-I second that motion. **Councilwoman Witcher**-I think we should put a time limit frame on the amount of time that they respond back to us because if it were to be done, if they want to do that prior to school beginning. **Councilman Schultz**-I think we should set a date on the table to consider it at our next schedule meeting. We have a motion and a second. **Mayor Lee**- All in favor, motion passed.

### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS-**

#### **A. Adoption of the 2019/2020 Annual Budget**

**Councilwoman Witcher**- I make a motion we accept the 2019/2020 budget as printed, **Councilman Schultz**- I second that motion, **Mayor Lee**- All in favor, **Councilman Mark Moore and Councilwoman Linda Pilgrim** voted nay, the vote was tied. **Mayor Lee**- I am in favor of, so motion passed.

#### **B. City Council monthly pay Increase to \$100.00 per month.**

Councilman Schultz made a motion to approve, seconded by **Councilwoman Witcher**, motion passed.

#### **C. Mayor Monthly Pay- Increase to \$300.00 per month.**

**Councilman Kevin Shultz**- made a motion to approve, **Councilwoman Witcher**, seconded that motion and **Councilman Moore**- abstained from voting, motion passed.

#### **D. Cost of General Business License- Increase to \$100.00**

**Councilman Moore-** made a motion to approve and then discussion was held and the Council decided to raise the fee of a General business license to \$125.00. **Councilman Shultz-**made a motion to raise the cost of a general business license to \$125.00 a year **Councilman Moore-** So I will revise my motion and say that we will raise the General Business License to \$125.00 a year, **Councilman Shultz-** seconded that motion, motion passed.

#### **XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **E. Maloy's Auto Service, Inc Bill**

**Councilman Moore** made a motion to pay the bill, **Councilman Shultz,** seconded that motion, motion passed.

##### **F. Precision Planning, Inc. bill**

**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to approve the bill, **Councilwoman Pilgrim-**seconded the motion, motion passed.

##### **G. Preston & Malcom, Attorney's at Law bill**

**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to approve the bill, **Councilman Moore,** seconded that motion, motion passed.

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

**Mark Moore-** I want to take this opportunity to clarify my choice of words in our May work session, I inadvertently used the word "**found money**" instead of supplemental income when in describing how our SPLOST account relates to our budget. I feel the budget should show SPLOST funds can change and rely solely on SPLOST to find some of our City's financial needs and expenses that lead to some of our budget short comings. To properly plan for our City's future our budget and our monthly financials should show each area of income and expense for example showing line items for the sewer showing income and expenses that have been missing from our budget in the past. Even though the funds were paid out of our SPLOST account. Also showing budgeted funds for current or future work running sidewalk, restoration or the City downtown development. What we need is a 2, 5 and 10 year plan in our budget to fund our City infrastructure and this is the only way that we can be financially responsible. I also want to say that you notice that I opposed this budget. I feel that with the revised amount of the 2018/2019 budget. When I say revised amount we would have an extra \$100,000 in our account. That is also including covering our upcoming 52,000.00 in our upcoming sewer expense and keeping a \$120,000 in our or a \$110,000 in our roads and sidewalk repairs, or cut our

mileage rate in half which is what I believe should happen. I don't believe that at this current time we are treating our taxes in the best interest for our City. Now we had a public comment questioning what our education expenses are? Since 2015 the education budget has went from \$ 10,000.00 a year to the current budgeted amount to \$28,000.00. I am all for education but I believe there is an oversight on how this money should be spent on how much money we should tie up budget for more important things like addressing the speeding issue on Park St with some kind of speed control measures and in our subdivisions that is something that our citizens have ask for us to do. That is something we should plan for in our future Just like it was brought up that we need to bring in sidewalks from where they currently are all the way up to Hwy 81. That is something that should be planned for and that is something that has to be brought up and planned for over the next 5 to 10 years that is something that we have to budget for. This is where I stand as a City Council and I feel this City can be physically and financially responsible. Thank you.

**Linda Pilgrim:** None

**Kevin Shultz-** I will keep it kind of short, I want to offer my condolences to Mark and his wife Kim on the passing of Mark's father-in-law. Please extend my condolences to your wife also. Thank you for everyone coming out tonight. That is all I have thank you.

**Carol Witcher-** Years ago when I was teaching school, and I taught 31 years, I claimed a phrase and I still believe it in my heart, my soul and my spirit this day. Ignorance is the master of the uneducated. We can sit here and be as ignorant as we choose to be or we can sit here and educate ourselves and do the absolute best for this City. These classes that I have taken have not been Mickey Mouse classes. They are very intense and they are very worthy, I bring information back. I want this City to grow but, I want it to grow like this school down here. We have the most beautiful school in the County. We could not ask for a better principal than Sean Calahan. Without education you may as well go to a closet turn the light off stand there in the dark and wonder what you are suppose to do next. Education is the key to everything we do in life. If you don't think that is true go to the Dr.'s office and try to understand take this needle and take a shot everyday and not telling you how much, not telling you why, not telling you what for, not telling you how much it cost. You don't walk into a Dr's office without educating yourself. Going to a him/her and saying what do I do, how do I do?

You don't go buy a car without educating yourself, if we are going to put our external money into this City it is for the benefit of the City. I have been here eight years and I have educated myself through the processes of the Harold Holtz University of Georgia political processes. Every single person in this room should require every single person setting up here in front of you to educate themselves to everything that this State has to offer through its University programs in how to maintain and run and keep our City. If we loose the City Charter we would not have a fire department, you won't have anything. We could loose our City Charter if we continue to sit in ignorance and not educate ourselves. Our attorney is very educated, he would not be in this position if he were not. Our other attorney is very educated he would not be in that position if he weren't. Now we can get rid of these two very quickly and say we just don't need you and bring some John and Joe Blossom off the street and put him right here to maintain the decorum that we need to run a correct meeting and to keep us level on things and when we don't know things our first person is right here our next person it right there. They did not get there because they chose not to be educated. I am for education and I will continue to speak to it to the day the good Lord takes me home. You can't do anything without it. And if we are going to sit up here you had better start holding us to a higher standard our feet need to be put to the fire and we should have the appropriate answer for you and if we don't we should not be sitting up here. Think about that.

**XVI. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Shultz, seconded by Councilwoman Witcher, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this 11th day of July, 2019.

**Mayor Lee**

**Katherine A, Glass, City Clerk**

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