

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 1021 PARK ST.  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020  
COUNCIL MEETING  
7:00 P.M.**

Present at Meeting:  
Mayor Steven Mark Moore  
Stephanie Moncrief  
Linda Pilgrim  
Mary Hall  
Mike Malcom, City Attorney  
Jesse Couch, City Attorney

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark Moore at 7:00pm.

**II. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Moore requested to add Resurfacing of the Tennis Court for discussion under new business and remove executive session. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim moved to approve the requested changes. Councilmember Mary Hall seconded. Vote unanimous.

**III. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Mary Hall approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Mayor asked if there was any discussion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief requested removing the July 23, 2020 work session minutes until next council meeting, they were incomplete. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved the request. Councilmember Mary Hall seconded. Vote unanimous.

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief requested moving the invoice of Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC under new business for discussion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved the request. Councilmember Mary Hall seconded. Vote unanimous.

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief requested moving the invoice of CodeRed under new business for discussion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved the request. Councilmember Mary Hall seconded. Vote unanimous.

Councilmember Mary Hall revised her motion to include the changes. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Vote unanimous.

**1. Minute's Approval**

- a. July 9, 2020 – Public Hearing
- b. July 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- c. August 6, 2020 – Public Hearing (Millage Rate)
- d. August 6, 2020 – Called Meeting (Millage Rate)

2. Financial Summary – July 2020
3. Invoices
  - a. Precision Planning
  - b. Preston & Malcom Attorneys at Law
  - c. Lakeview Environmental, LLC (Sewer)
  - d. Rushton & Company (CPA)

#### **IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

- i. Public Comments – None

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. 2020 Business License

- i. One Main Automotive

Mayor Moore explained One Main Automotive has submitted a business license to do oil and tire changes. Code Enforcement officer says the business is in compliance. The business was not in compliance. Mayor noted the business is in compliance with the C-1 zoning but is not in compliance with the downtown overlay district. But would recommend issuing the business license for One Main Automotive.

Anthony Hodge, owner representing One Main Automotive was present to answer any questions.

After some discussion, Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim moved to approve the business license application for One Main Automotive based on this being a temporary location and strict cooperation with Code Enforcement for compliance. Mayor Moore asked for a second. There was none.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion for denial of the business license application. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief denied the application. Councilmember Mary Hall seconded. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim opposed. Vote carried.

2. Residential Marketing Services, Inc.

Mayor Moore explained this application was tabled due to the paperwork not being completed properly.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief moved to approve the business license application. Councilmember Mary Hall seconded. Vote unanimous.

3. Ordinance – Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Final Reading)

Attorney Jesse Couch read the caption of the Zoning Ordinance Amendment for final reading. Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Mary Hall approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Resolution – GEFA Loan Deferral Modification

Mayor Moore explained this deferral modification is for 6 months for the GEFA loan for our sewer plant and this is to assist Cities who are under distress due to COVID-19. Mayor Moore noted we are not under distress and does not recommend the City take advantage of this modification. Mayor Moore asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief moved to approve the modification. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. The vote was unanimous.

2. Resurfacing of Magnolia Springs Subdivision

Mayor Moore explained the project will be completed by Walton County Service Agreement. This will be a two-stage process. First the broken concrete has to be removed and patched and second it has to be re-patched. Mayor Moore asked if there were any public comments. There was none. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim asked where the funds will come from? Mayor Moore noted from SPLOST and money the City moved over from last year's budget.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief moved to approve the resurfacing of Magnolia Springs Subdivision. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. The vote was unanimous.

3. Resurfacing of Tennis Courts

Mayor Moore explained the City has a budget of \$15,000 to repair the tennis/basketball courts. We received an estimate for \$11,998, but this does not include grinding the cracks smooth, but Public Works is capable of repairing this or there is enough money left in the budget to sub out the work. A citizen asked if the basketball/tennis courts have ever been repaired. Mayor Moore answered no. After some discussion, Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Mary Hall moved to approve the resurfacing of the basketball/tennis courts. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief opposed. Motion carried.

4. Clifton, Lipford, Hardison, & Parker, LLC (Audit) Invoice

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief asked why the City was being charged for three years of preparation of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Report of Local Government Finances for the fiscal years June 30, 2017, 2018 and 2019. City Clerk Tangee Puckett noted this was to get the City in compliance and why they had not been done in the past is unsure.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief moved to approve the invoice. Councilmember Mary Hall seconded. The vote was unanimous.

5. CodeRed Invoice

Mayor Moore explained CodeRed is a service used for emergencies through telephone service. The invoice is \$1500 a year and the City has not utilized it.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief moved to deny the invoice until further research is done. Councilmember Mary Hall seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VII. CLERK'S REPORT**

City Clerk gave an update – 9 ballpark rentals and 5 pavilion rentals. Municipal Court has been delayed until September and the City has a lot of cases since we haven't had court since February. Municipal Court Clerk Sonya Cox has been working diligently trying to get those with tickets to pay instead of going to court.

**VIII. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Code Enforcement has written 34 notice of violations. 18 – grass needs cutting, 3 – cars must be tagged/insured, 1 – accumulation of trash, 1 – vehicle parked on the streets and 11 – vehicles parked in the grass. and 2 – businesses operating without business license. We are in the process of improving the ballpark, this is a revenue source for the City. We are working on resurfacing the running area and putting the bases on the ball field. Working on the concession stand and the bathrooms. We replaced the hot water heater at the concession stand. The Jiffy Johns have been removed from the park. The fence in the ballpark will need some repairs. We are working on beautifying the park.

We have some exciting news for the City of Walnut Grove. First of all, we are approved to move forward with the paving of the Magnolia Springs subdivision. We will be marking the street Wednesday, August 19th to prepare and deep patch the broken areas that will be followed by a full surface paving. Second, we are approved to resurface both the Tennis Court and Basketball Court in the City Park. This will be a two-tone surface, designed to level and fill in the cracks so prepare to get those tennis rackets out of the closet. We are currently in the process of repairing the plumbing in the bathrooms by the concession stand near the City Park ball field so both those bathrooms and the concession stand will be available for use soon. Speaking of the Ball Field, we are working on revitalizing the field with the help of our local Masons. The grass has been treated with a fertilizer and weed killer by our Public Works employees and it is starting to look great.

Due to the demand of our Citizens, we will be scheduling a public hearing on installing eight-speed tables on Park Street and two-speed tables on Church Way, we would like your input.

Our Planning and Zoning ordinance is now in place and we are looking for city residents to be a part of the planning for the future City of Walnut Grove.

This is just the start of great things that will be happening for our city and we need your help. Please think about getting involved with one of our committees. For more information contact me at [mayor@cityofwalnutgrove.com](mailto:mayor@cityofwalnutgrove.com).

**IX. DISCUSSION ITEM**

None

**X. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mary Hall:** Thank everyone for being here and its an honor to serve the citizens of Walnut Grove.

**Linda Pilgrim:** Happy to see everyone here. This past Saturday we had our second craft show. The turn out was good and looking forward to this growing.

**Stephanie Moncrief:** Nothing new to add. We are still in the process of doing some housekeeping.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - none

**XII. ADJOURN**

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Approved by Mayor and Council this \_\_\_\_ day of September 2020.

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Mayor Steven Mark Moore

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Tangee B. Puckett, City Clerk