



**CITY OF WALNUT GROVE**  
**December 8, 2022 7:00 PM**  
**1021 PARK STREET MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

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**Council Meeting Minutes**

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**Mayor** - Mark Moore  
**Council Members** -  
Linda Pilgrim  
Stephanie Moncrief  
Erica Miles via online

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**City Clerk** - Dawn Lummus  
**City Attorney** - Tony Powell  
**P & Z Chairman** - Don Cannon  
**Public Works** - Brian Pilgrim

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jimmy Parker, David & Ashley Johnson, Cynthia Head  
Ellen & Laymen Brandon, Chris & Amie Johnson

**I. CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Mark Moore

**II. INVOCATION** – Tony Powell

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – All Participated

**IV. ROLL CALL** – Council member Jon Dial not present

**V. AGENDA APPROVAL** - Council member Linda Pilgrim made motion to approve.  
Council member Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Passed unanimously.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA** - Council member Linda Pilgrim made motion to approve.  
Council member Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Passed unanimously.

**1. Minutes**

- A. November 10, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes
- B. December 1, 2022, Council Called Meeting Minutes

**2. Financials**

**3. Invoices over \$5000**

- A. Southern Sanitation

**VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Community Involvement Committee – Council member Linda Pilgrim reported the Christmas Tree Lighting went well. She thanked all the sponsors for their support, which was even better than last year. She also thanked Mayor Mark Moore for all his encouragement. The Mayor then thanked all the staff for working overtime and putting in the effort to make it happen.

Parks and Recreation/Public Works – Council member Jon Dial was not in attendance.

DDA Report – Erica Miles was in attendance via Microsoft Teams due to a positive Covid test. She stated the DDA was looking forward to the planning and zoning meeting to hear more about the cohesive effort of the master plan.

Education Involvement Committee – Council member Stephanie Moncrief reported the high school is finishing up the classwork exams and getting ready for final exams. Basketball is doing extremely well, and wrestling is still going. At the elementary school, they have Santa's workshop. The kids and parents are loving it. At the middle school they are doing some tryouts for team sports.

**VIII. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION** – Chairman Don Cannon said that they did not have a meeting in November so the meeting on December the 15<sup>th</sup> will have a very active agenda. They will discuss the R3 zoning amendments, various aspects of the master plan, information on the special use permit for the property on Forrester Cemetery Rd, and the new state zoning process. The Chairman reported that Megan Ragan and Donnie Tudor attended Planning and Zoning 102 training. He asked that later tonight when the planning commission bylaws come up on the agenda, that the council act favorably. He asked where there any questions. Council member Stephanie Moncrief asked, “how and when the selection process will work for selecting who will work on the master plan and who will be involved”. The Chairman replied, “This is one of the things that I will be presenting to the Planning Commission and get their input from our meeting next week. I expect to have some recommendations to come back for the Mayor and Council as well as the DDA. We expect to be reviewing if not finalize the RFP that we think will be appropriate. We will be recommending some ideas as to how we can operate with some sort of screening committee that would encompass making sure that all the stakeholders are continuously informed.” Council member Moncrief said “As we discussed in the bylaws for what we’re going to be talking about later, the master plan referred to in there, it refers to the planning and zoning, but not the masterplan for the city. Now as far as I’m understanding, it was the mayor who asked you or planning and zoning to work on that master plan. Does that have to be an official act or decision of the council or is that something that the Mayor can just decide that’s who’s doing it.” City attorney Tony Powell replied “Well, the process of the master planning your town center can be done anyway that you want it to be done. There’s not a fixed methodology for doing that. The downtown plan is usually assigned to the DDA, Planning or some other outside group to begin the process. Ultimately everything has to come back to Mayor and council for decision making because there’s no money anywhere else, so that has to be. Now the DDA ends up being an integral part of that process because they do the funding aspect of most downtown development projects. Their tool is that they can issue bonds, borrow money, and coordinate with the cash flow for developers who actually build the downtown”. Council member Moncrief replied by stated that she wanted to make sure there would be no chance that could back and say this was an official act of the council. Planning chairman Cannon explained that what they are doing is to formulate a process which would be presented to the Mayor and council for their action. He said, “I’ve said a number of times the planning zoning commission is not ours, it’s just what we’ve been asked to facilitate and that’s what we’re trying to do and hope everybody’s pleased with what we’re trying to do. And I know where the funding is, and I know the

method of getting there. I'm just hoping that you'll see it our way too". Council member Moncrief said, "Please don't misunderstand my question. I was not in no way questioning you or the planning and zoning." Chairman Cannon said, "There's a lot of loose ends to be tied up and that's the reason I expect my members of my group will be having a lot to say next week about different things. I hope they do because I think that's what we're trying to achieve. Then once we feel like we have done what we can and we feel that we've got a good opportunity to move forward, then those recommendations will be made". The Mayor said, "I know the planning commission will be interviewing engineers for the process. Is that something that has to go out for a bid process?" Mr. Cannon stated that's what they are doing then they will be presenting the RFP's. They will be asking for proposals, and they will devise a grading system for how to go about that. City attorney Tony Powell stated that you do not have to bid out professional services. He did encourage to go with certain planning firms who are LCI qualified, to actually deal with grant funding with the state. It is important to get qualified on the Atlanta Regional Commission list for approval. More discussion took place regarding the funding.

**IX. LIBRARY REPORT** - Librarian Dana Seger reported it has been a busy month. They had about 50 people come out for Santa. The next big event is the drama movie morning, and they will be watching The Polar Express. This year someone donated the library a 13-foot Christmas tree and it looks beautiful. All the lights and decorations were also donated.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Ms. Ashley Johnson 876 Forrester Cemetery Road. Ms. Johnson handed out packets showing plats of their land, and a letter from Bear Creek Engineering. Ms. Johnson is asking for support in allowing her family to move their 5<sup>th</sup> wheel onto their property and to approve a variance on the ordinance for a driveway to enter and exit off the main city road. They purchased their land from Highland Builders Group. Highland did not disclose that the property was inside the city limits or that they would have to have a driveway off Forrester Cemetery Rd. They were led to believe that the easement on the back of the property would be used as their driveway. They met with a site engineer, and he disclosed that to do a driveway off Forrester Cemetery Rd would cost thousands of dollars and months of planning, including a consultation from the Army Corps of Engineers. She was asking to allow a special use permit for the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel to be moved onto the property by January 1<sup>st</sup>, which is coming up in the planning and zoning meeting. The issue with the special use permit is that the Johnson's do not have a site plan approved and it can't be approved because of the driveway issue. She is asking for the council to consider granting a variance on the driveway ordinance. Mayor Moore reminded the council that they are not voting on this tonight. Council member Moncrief wants to do more research and talk to the city attorney. Mayor Moore pointed out that it is going through the chain, and it is going in front of planning and zoning. They are the ones who will do all the leg work and come up with a recommendation to the council. The Mayor said, "to make sure the council knows, and planning and zoning are on the same page as the requirements for the special use permit is that they have a site plan, the house plan and the site plan has to include the driveway access. Those three functions have to be, then they will get a 6-month special use permit so they can live in the fifth wheel while the home is

being built. Right now, there's no extension, but we'll take a look at it in the 5<sup>th</sup> month and see where they are as far as the actual construction of the home.

Next was Ms. Amie Johnson 804 Forrester Cemetery Rd Ms. Johnson said "I own the 51 acres where the large lake is. So, between the pond that they have and the small lake they have, everything in between there is a creek. We were not concerned with anything because there is an easement that was granted to them when they purchased the property that clearly shows ingress and egress on it. We were told obviously that's where their driveway would go. Since that time, we have learned what they have learned. We now have concerns because you have three lots that based on the way your ordinance reads, where the driveway would have to go, each of those driveways would have to go under, though, or over the lake. So that's the current situation on those. Anything happening to that lake, or the creek ravine will affect our property. Don't know whether this council is aware of this, but those three lots were only recently subdivided and approved by the city. That concerns me personally because I don't understand how that can be approved knowing your city ordinances and knowing that that physically is impossible. The next question I have, the road that runs beside that goes to the sewer plant, who is that owned by?" Mayor Moore stated that the city only has access rights, easement rights back to the sewer plant. The road is divided down the middle. Mayor Moore said, "Well, I can safely say because Mr. Parker was a part of this, he's our city engineer. He was a part of this discussion, and all of these were discussed with the Highlands before they purchased the property before they did subdivide the property and Jon Dial was a part of it as well. They chose to go down this route. We warned them that this would be an issue and they chose to ignore those warnings". Ms. Johnson questioned doesn't the city have an obligation to see what is physically possible. The Mayor said, "based upon my memory, the Highlands said that they had a way to take care of this. They chose to divide it like this. The requirements that we have is they had to do it so at a minimum of five acres to be able to approve their variance for a septic system. As far as from that point on, how they decided what they were going to do after they subdivide the lots, is not my knowledge". Planning chairman Don Cannon stated that when they reviewed the proposed subdivision their recommendation was that Highlands improve that road that has the easement to city standards and dedicate it as a city road. The Mayor thanked Ms. Johnson for her time.

## **XI. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Emerald Cove Paving** – The Mayor asked Mr. Jimmy Parker to please come up and talk about the Emerald Cove paving the recommended fixes.

Mr. Parker said, "So as the city's done on many recent resurfacing projects, y'all have historically took advantage of the counties contract for milling and deep patching each year and utilize that same contract on your own streets as does Monroe, Social Circle, and Loganville. In this case, I believe we did the original estimates back September of last year, but the project had to be deferred to the next fiscal year due to funding. I believe about March or April; the mayor asked us to go out and we will typically mark the areas to be patched on these roads that are degraded. And then I understand that the mayor did coordinate with MHB on the

patching, that was completed. The resurfacing was done by Walton County Public Works and that's through your service delivery agreement. Walton County does resurfacing for all of the cities. The labor is free, basically you pay for the asphalt. So, there's the benefit to the municipalities. As I've talked to the mayor and as is obvious in Emerald Cove, the county crews are really more accustomed to paving rural county roads, think of Jersey, Walnut Grove roads. That's pretty much what they're accustomed to. So, when you get in these curbing gutter situations, it takes a little more finesse. You know Magnolia turned out pretty good, I thought, the county did that, and it's got rollback curve instead of the high back curve. There is a little rough transition, usually that edge has to be feathered and that has to be hand done with the lute and rolled to make that a smooth transition. In Emerald Cove that issue was sort of compounded by the driveways have a recess. In the late 80s, early 90s that was a common deal because back then milling equipment wasn't as prevalent and they did that because the next resurfacing you just resurface to that lip, and everybody's got a smooth transition. So evidently Emerald Cove has been resurfaced, at least portions of it, one time in the past. So, this time around, and as I've mentioned to the mayor and actually discussed it with Tony, that although the county did a great job with Magnolia Springs, I don't know if it was a different crew chief that day or what the deal was. They left a lip anywhere from 2 to 4 inches at the edge of the gutter line and I can see with the driveway differences a bump, bump every driveway you go in and out. We did look at it with the Mayor and we actually saw Ms. Moncrief that day but went back and got some data on three options and they're summarized in this e-mail. Option one which is the least expensive and we actually have a quote from MHB Paving out of Social Circle to do that. That would be to tack and install asphalt in that 18-inch gutter line. So basically, from that edge of the asphalt mount to your driveway apron would be filled with asphalt throughout. So that would make a smooth transition. You'll lose about 15% of your gutter capacity. That's not uncommon with resurfacing urban streets, and I think it should alleviate a lot of the aesthetic issues that the residents are experiencing right now with those hard months going in out of the driveway. It's also further compounded because Emerald Cove has no sidewalks. A lot of people use the street for walking and recreation. In subdivisions with sidewalks is not that big of an issue, but it is compounded here. So, the cost to do the gutter fill, as I'll call it, is \$80,000. We also contacted Georgia safe sidewalks, who has done a number of projects for the county and a lot of the cities, but not only on the courthouse square where they grind down in the sidewalks that settle or are humped up by roots, they grind those down smooth, they also do asphalt. In talking to Todd Folk with Georgia safe sidewalks, he really didn't feel like that was a great solution because he could go in there and grind 4 feet on either side. Then you're going to have a slope, but the street is going to look like it's been ground on either side for the next 10 or 15 years until it's resurfaced again. So aesthetically I'm not sure that's the greatest solution, but it would reduce that lip at the gutter line. His projected cost for that was \$120,000. The other option, I think some residents have mentioned this to the mayor, would be just to go in and mill out the existing asphalt down two inches below the gutter line and resurface it like it was a brand-new street. Milling and hauling is pretty expensive. Secondly, we don't really know what's under that asphalt. I think the base was installed then along with the patching we've done. On some of the older city streets in the city's been very minimal base. So, you may have to look at doing some base work also. So that's a much more expensive option coming in an estimated \$520,000.

So those are the three options that we presented to the city. I'd be glad to answer any questions you have about it.

Council member Moncrief said, "Jimmy, I'm trying to figure out how we got here, quite honestly. If MHB isn't the greatest, why did we use them? Why did we use them I mean, if the county isn't all that great, why did we use them?"

Mr. Parker replied, "Well, I mean, they've saved you a good bit of money on the previous projects they've done. Magnolia Springs, I thought it turned out pretty good. That's the last project they did for you."

Ms. Moncrief replied, "But our street was already above the gutters. How did we get to the point where we didn't see that it was already raised, and it needed to be brought down before paving happened?"

Mr. Parker said, "Well, that could still be feathered." To which Ms. Moncrief replied, "That's not a good solution. How did we get being above the grade of the gutter and then adding another two inches on? I'm trying to figure out what we need to say when it comes to a situation like this, and it's a huge learning process for everybody, but I'm not an expert in paving, and I count on you to be the expert. My question is how did we not see it was two inches above and not make the choice? I know you were involved in the patchwork. Were you ever asked, tell us what needs to happen here."

Mr. Parker said, "so when we gave you an estimate, you know we talked about this in Magnolia as well. I guess I mean, frankly, I don't think y'all could have afforded it. I mean, if you see the cost of option three, it would have been the same, which would have been outside the paving budget. The better option was, I mean in urban situations, that feathering of asphalt and gutters are pretty standard, that's not uncommon. So, if that had been done over the full length, y'all wouldn't notice that grade transfer. From the surface it looks great. It's just the edge, if that had it been feathered like it should have been, I think everybody would be pretty pleased."

Ms. Moncrief asked, "How come it didn't get feathered?" Mr. Parker stated, "Like I said, I don't know, and they did a great job at Magnolia Springs." Ms. Moncrief said, "I mean when I look back at the different bids that we had Allied had milling down that edge." Mr. Parker said, "They were going to do edge milling and patching, and that's the quote you have right?" Ms. Moncrief replied, "And I guess my question is I remember that meeting when we were voting on this, and I said are these companies all doing the same thing? And I was reassured, yes, they're all doing the same thing and they weren't." Mr. Parker said that those are two different quotes, two different scoops. MHB was only doing milling and patching."

Ms. Moncrief said, "I would assume that the paving company or the Walton County crew would have the same scope as Allied." Mr. Parker stated that Walton County doesn't have any milling equipment. Ms. Moncrief said, "If they're an inferior company and inferior in the sense that they do better on county roads, why did we even consider them? Why were they part of the process?"

City attorney Tony Powell explained, "I think Jimmy can confirm this about or not. I don't want to lean too heavily on MHB in the analysis because the two bids that you see when you're approving this is not part of the process. The process is an annual bid under the agreement with Walton County, and so MHB won the bid for this year. And what they did was they did the deep patching that was their part of the bid. That's all they do. And far as I know, nobody's complained about the deep patching. It's not the deep patching that created the issue, it is the elevation of the finished grade of the paving. Now that was done by Walton County." Ms. Moncrief said, "The issue is we were already too high. Why wasn't it recognized and

handled?" Mr. Powell said, "There's nobody in the process except deep patching and paving and the paving people from the county are not sophisticated in finessing these driveways with this well-developed curb system as your neighborhood has. So, when that paving was put in, you can see it's too high, and that's the person doing it. It's that person, now they're going to say, well, that's just what we do. We don't really have equipment that feathers, and we don't do any milling. But if you have to put your hand on the person who put the two inches on there on purpose, it's the county operator, it's not MHB." Mayor Moore said, "I'm going to expand on what she asked. We got it inspected back in 2021. We got it inspected again before this process came out, we had the engineers go out there, we had MHB out there, we had the county out there before any of this project got started. Did anybody notice that the asphalt was already 2 inches above the curb? Then why didn't anybody say anything to the city about it and say well wait a minute, we need to have this ground down." Mr. Parker replied that it doesn't have to be if the finish is done correctly. He also said, "I mean y'all would be one of the few cities that are wealthy enough to mill and resurface every time you do. They're not many that can so usually, they end up topping and feathering and they reach a point where they exceed their gutter capacity. They come in and mill it out and resurface it. Mayor Moore said, "I want to bring something up. We've worked on this for the last four months. It's my opinion to move forward and get this thing fixed. We should have got it fixed back in October when we originally came up with this solution. We got residents unhappy. We cannot afford to re-mill and spend half \$1,000,000 on re-milling the subdivision. It's an obvious solution into getting it fixed by paving the gutter, getting rid of the bumps, and moving on from this point right now. As far as pointing fingers of what, how and why, to me is nonproductive. These people are still driving over a bumpy road that we could have gotten fixed three months ago, but we still chose to focus on the cause instead of getting a solution done and getting it fixed. I'm asking the council, and this isn't on the agenda, but I will, to approve getting quotes of getting the gutter done, getting this fixed and move on from there. We can't grind it because it's not going to fix two to four inches of drop in between driveways. It doesn't satisfy that problem. We can't afford to mill it down because we don't have a half \$1,000,000. So, the obvious solution is just to pave the gutter line like Jimmy said. Get these people's driveways back, and then move on. As far as the responsibility of how it happened, we're going to revisit that later, but let's get this thing done. So, let's get it fixed." Ms. Miles asked, "In certain areas of the neighborhood I believe there's up to five inches different, and then in other parts of the neighborhood it's a 2-inch different. If they go in and just pour concrete in the gutter line, without grinding any of it down, how is it going to be level or even?" Mr. Parker said, "they'll be using the same mix, so they'll go from 2 inches, 4 inches, whatever it is, to the two inches." Mayor Moore said, "minimum should be 2 inches because that's the current driveways. They're pretty consistently a 2-inch lip like you had mentioned. And so, if we go from 2 inches up to whatever grade that is now it'll fix the problem. It's not the optimal solution but it's the best solution for the city at this point in time. I've had three other engineers take a look at it. They all came up with the same solution. It's just to pave or asphalt the gutter line and let's get this thing fixed." Ms. Moncrief said, "I'd like to go off Erica's comment. The issue isn't aesthetics, the issue is safety in the neighborhood. I live in the neighborhood. I'm the one who was here while our 50 neighbors came to the meeting and expressed their discontent with it. It's aesthetics. We've had a pregnant woman fall at the curb. We've had older generation folks fall getting their mail. So, it's not aesthetics at all.

It would be nice for it to look nice like it used to look, before the paving. But it is safety and that's what it is. And my concern is, is if there's a 5-inch lip and you're going down to an area here you still have that issue. It's a safety issue. We're concerned about people driving off, I mean its safety. Will this rectify that situation, or will there be situations on the road or places on the road where you guys, someone will look and say this needs to be ground down a bit and then we can go ahead and put it down?" Mr. Parker replied that could be added to the RFQ. Mayor Moore said, "we'll get three other quotes this time and compare apples to apples. Now I did get a quote that to grind the edges down and then repave it, that is a \$250,000 item. That's still out of our budget wheelhouse but we can grind the edges. Now I don't know what it's going to do with the level of the current road. With the engineers, we've all looked at it, in paving that, remember if you have a 4-inch lip and you add a 2-inch lip, then you will only have a 2-inch drop in the severe areas and in the other areas it's going to be almost flat". Ms. Moncrief stated, "you do have a point with that, you're right." Ms. Miles asked, "Is this going to affect the water runoff coming down our driveways?" Mr. Parker replied saying, "Most of the driveways I've looked at to make sure there were no driveways that were lower than the gutter line. Most all of them, they were built correctly. So, they were either uphill or they've got the rise before they go down. So, if there is runoff down a driveway, we probably need to look at that specific address because I didn't observe any when I was out there. If a driveway goes up and then which is what all standard says it shouldn't be but if there's one that doesn't meet that standard, we need to address that in this process." Mayor Moore said, "We'll get that inspected to make sure that that is done correctly. Now second question is here it is December, now I was told by Walton County that there is a paving window. Can this be done while it's cold?" Mr. Parker replied they won't do it when it's 30 degrees. Ms. Moncrief asked, "Jimmy can before it goes out the RFQ or whatever it is, can we see it? Is that, OK?" Mr. Parker replied, "does Erica live there too?" Ms. Moncrief replied, "Yeah." Mr. Parker, "So I mean, why don't we three meet out there and walk it and make sure we address the areas you are concerned about. Mayor Moore said, "I understand that once you do that, it has to be sent to the Council to pay for it. I'm only asking now for a motion to agree to pave the curb and move forward from this point on and get this thing fixed, after an engineer goes out there and inspects it and makes sure that everything is done correctly. Then once that is done and the spec sheet is done, we will send it out for bids based upon that spec sheet and then we'll get it done and we'll get it fixed. Because we do have enough money in our SPLOST account to cover this \$80,000." Jimmy Parker suggested that when they go out there to have MHB pavers there, so they can answer questions. City attorney Tony Powell, "obviously we've looked into what happened and met with Jimmy and got the sort of the full scope of what the details were about the county contract. The only thing that I saw in the process that created an exposure issue in question. Is that in the MHB invoicing they appeared to bid at a rate of \$213.25 and that's more than their annual bid. So, if in fact the city paid \$82,000 for the deep patching, that's \$13,486 too much they owe and as they go through that process that needs to be recaptured to the city." The Mayor stated, "make sure that we apply in the minutes when we approved that paving because of the at the material cost changing daily that we had a 20% plus or minus surcharge in case that asphalt jumped up higher than at the time of approval."



Council member Stephanie Moncrief made a motion to send out bids for fixing the level line in Emerald Cove. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimously.

**2. Sewer Plant Update** – Mr. Parker with Precision Planning reported that they are designing the expansion of the sewer facility to 100,000 gallons a day. So, they will be building out the spray fields, adding a new aeration tank and equipment there to take that capacity up. The plans have been submitted to the EPD, and therein lies the current delay with the funding that was distributed at the federal level. Expected approval of the plans is expected in the first quarter of 2023. A respective developer approached the Mayor with another option, a MBR system, a direct discharge into Cornish Creek. It is a very modular system and easy to grow. He did go to the EPD and renewed the waste load allocation for up to 1,000,000-gallon discharge for the future. He said, “Basically once the city exceeds 100,000 gallons a day, you're going to have to go to that direct discharge jobs on Cornish Creek. So, the first option is basically we continue to use the LS, we build the spray fields, but we put in the new MBR unit instead of the aeration. So as opposed to the 1.9 million that we budgeted for the conventional LS system, that's another \$200,00. Option two is if we just abandon spray irrigation altogether. Go ahead and build a plant and go ahead and pump to Cornish Creek. The overall cost you see is cheaper because we're not building those spray fields in phase one. But the hard lift is the phase one cost of 3.1 million compared to 2.1, so that's another \$1,000,000.” He also explained that if the city proceeds with the path they are on, they are looking at \$1.9 million expense, and go to bid maybe February 2023. If the MBR system is chosen, the design development report would have to go through EPD’s review process. There was more discussion and questions asked. It was determined that this would be placed on the January work session for further discussion along with Chris Thomas and Jim Sunta.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Planning & Zoning Commission By-Laws** – Per city attorney Tony Powell explained when you look at our code online, it appears that we don't have a Planning Commission. And when you look back through some of the minutes, we have a little bit of trouble documenting that transition in terms of the meeting. So, first thing it did was to readopt that Planning Commission, which says section 1000 in Section 1. We're just making sure the approval process was documented correctly. Section 2, which is the readoption of your zoning ordinance so that we have a clear date with the amendments that are in. We're not changing anything about it. We're just giving you recodification date and then we're given the powers of the creation to the Planning Commission, the authority to create their own bylaws and then they wanted you to make sure you knew what they were doing with the bylaws because they will change those. The bylaws are attached to the ordinance. Ms. Moncrief asked about the payment of these positions and Mayor Moore explained that there is no payment it is all volunteer. Ms. Moncrief said, “I'm not ready to”. Mr. Don Cannon said, “let me assure you that no one with planning and zoning had anything to do with that language, that's a part of the code and part of the re-adoption of the planning and zoning commission and we are not compensated in anyway.” Council member

Moncrief asked if she would be able to take this to a work session and go through it with Don here. Mr. Cannon said, "All we are asking to do is to consolidate some of the things the within the code to make it easier for us to follow and the public. We're not asking for money; I would be offended if I was offered. You can either do it or you can't. We have presented this for about 6 or 7 months now and I'm sorry if I'm passionate, but I think that we've done a good job in trying to formulate what the rules of our organization ought to follow. If you wish not to approve it, then that's alright with me too." Mayor Moore said, "we just had a work session last week on this planning and zoning..." Ms. Moncrief said, "and I asked these questions in that work session." Mayor Moore asked, "and they were answered, were they not?" Ms. Moncrief replied that they were but some of the work sessions were cancelled. Mr. Powell explained that the ordinance is what is dominate and the bylaws would need to be conformed to that. The bylaws attached to the ordinance is just a draft. Mayor Moore said, "So we're actually approving the ordinance change, which is actually very little change from the original that we approved 3 years ago." Mr. Powell explained it is identical other than you're giving the planning commission the ability to adopt by laws. Council member Stephanie Moncrief made a motion to approve the ordinance to establish and empower the Planning Commission. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimously.

### **XIII. REPORTS**

- 1. Public Works Report** - Public Works Director Brian Pilgrim reported all the Christmas lights and decorations are up. The City Park buildings were pressure washed and gutters cleaned out. Work was done to spruce up the park. The curbs and gutters have been cleaned to keep the storm water flowing. The new employee, Craig Murphy, is working out really well.
- 2. Clerk's Report** - City Clerk Dawn Lummus stated that Municipal Court Clerk Sonya Cox reported there were 15 tickets from the Georgia State Patrol and 4 from Walton County. The code enforcement officer issued no citations in the last month. He will email a list of what has been done. Work continues on the LMIG application.
- 3. Mayor's Report** - Mayor Mark Moore reported the new code enforcement officer, Ramone, is doing a good job. He has seen a noticeable improvement. The Local Option Sales Tax passed with a 70 - 30 was approved. He reminded that there is a Christmas dinner tomorrow night for the council, planning & zoning and the DDA. He also stated that he was proud of the Community Involvement Committee for what they did and the donations for the tree lighting. The city is diligently working on the sewer plant. Northeast Georgia has a new lay out for the downtown. It will be given to planning and zoning and the DDA. He's very proud of the public works guys, they're doing a heck of a job.

### **XIV. TOWN HALL - None**

**XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS –**

Council member Erica Miles thanked everyone for coming out and was thankful she could attend virtually.

Council member Linda Pilgrim noted the Community Involvement committee starts up again in January. They are always looking for new members.

Council member Stephanie Moncrief – No comments

**XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**XVII. ADJOURN** – Council member Stephanie Moncrief made motion to adjourn.

Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn Lummus,  
City Clerk

Approved,



Mark Moore,  
Mayor