



CITY OF WALNUT GROVE

February 10, 2022

7:00 PM

1021 PARK STREET MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Mayor Mark Moore
Jon Dial
Linda Pilgrim
Stephanie Moncrief
Tony Powell
Keegan Ramsey

Mayor and Council

Council Meeting Minutes

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Mark Moore
- II. **INVOCATION** – Tony Powell
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** -All Participated
- IV. **AGENDA APPROVAL** – Mayor Moore asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add election under old business and NEGRC under new business. Council member Stephanie Moncrief made motion. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimous.
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA** – Council member Stephanie Moncrief asked that changes be made to the January 27 minutes to include she requested to speak with Mark Beatty from NEGRC at a future meeting. Council member Jon Dial made motion to approve. Council member Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Passed unanimous.
 1. January 20th & 27th Meeting Minutes
 2. Invoice over \$5000
 3. Financials
- VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. **Community Involvement Committee** – Linda Pilgrim
Council member Linda Pilgrim reported the committee had their first meeting for the year where they discussed the calendar for the year. She also spoke about the upcoming city park market and plans for movie in the park being in the works.
 2. **Parks and Recreation/Public Works** – Jon Dial
Council member Jon Dial reported working on getting a date for the next meeting. He also spoke about some of the topics that would be discussed like sidewalks and walking trails in the park and also updating the tennis court with pickle ball lines later in the year.
 3. **Education Involvement Committee** – Stephanie Moncrief
Council member Stephanie Moncrief spoke about her past involvement with Walnut Grove Elementary and the PTO's efforts to get a digital sign for the school. She reported that the sign is still in use and now student's birthdays are highlighted. Council member Moncrief also stated that the school's daddy daughter dance is now focusing on including boys and any member of a student's household to keep up with the times.
- VII. **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – DON CANNON: CHAIR**
Chairman Cannon reported that the commission would be holding a public hearing to discuss a variance request next week and would report back to the council with their recommendations after the hearing.
- VIII. **WALNUT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT – LINDSAY ALLEN: PRINCIPAL**
Principal Allen presented a slideshow highlighting the achievements of Walnut Grove High School. Principal Allen reported about the success of the athletic programs at the school. He also highlighted that the graduation rate of 92.5% is one of the highest in the state. Mr. Allen spoke about the staff of Walnut

Grove and one of the teachers receiving teacher of the year and the great job they have been doing along with some of the nationally recognized student academic achievements. Mayor Moore added that the city would like to help recognize the teacher of the year and for principal Allen to let the city know what it could do to support the effort. Mayor Moore also offered the city park softball field for practices if the high school needed extra room to practice.

- X. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Esse Johnson asked if there were any plans to bring a post office to the city. Mayor Moore commented that the city has been working on solving that issue for years and will continue to work on a solution. Esse Johnson also commented that the entrance to Dial Farms is very dark at night and if anything could be done. Mayor Moore responded that the city is working on the issue.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Moratorium** – Mayor Moore commented that a revision needs to be made due to the current version restricting the existing Dial Farm project to continue with building permits. Mayor Moore presented two options which were to exclude the Dial Farm PUD from the moratorium or option two which is to shrink the footprint of the moratorium area to the Walnut Grove Parkway square area. Council member Stephanie Moncrief commented she presented an option to exclude Dial Farms at the last work session and if there is a reason not to go with that option. Tony Powell commented that by using that option it would be recognizing vested rights that the Dial Farm PUD has which is perfectly defensible. Council member conveyed concerns about not knowing what the downtown will look like before giving developers permission to build. Council member Stephanie Moncrief made motion to approve the option of the moratorium that excludes the Dial Farm PUD. Council member Jon Dial seconded. Passed unanimous.

2. **Election** – Mayor Moore explained the dates for the upcoming election to fill the vacant city council seat needed to be modified to coincide with Walton County. Tony Powell read the resolution which stated the qualifying dates, election date and application fee. Council member Jon Dial made motion to approve the resolution. Council member Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Passed unanimous.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **NEGRC Contract Agreement** – Mayor Moore explained this agreement was to authorize the NEGRC to help the city develop a master plan concept for the downtown. Council member Stephanie Moncrief stated that she had questions how the development process works and also noted she asked for a representative of the NEGRC to be available at a work session to answer questions. Mayor Moore explained this was the preliminary stage to make a formal agreement so that the NEGRC could begin work on developing the concept. Mayor Moore also stated that Mark Beatty the designer is about to begin maternity leave and when he returns the city can setup a retreat that he can address the council, planning and zoning, DDA and the land owners. Council member Jon Dial made motion to approve the agreement. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Council member Stephanie Moncrief opposed. Motion passed 2-1.

XIII. REPORTS

1. **Code Enforcement Report** – Craig Ellington reported the notices of violations issued for the month.
2. **Public Works Report** – Brian Pilgrim reported that the dump truck has been repaired and work has started on trimming limbs throughout the city. Brian also reported that they have moved to the new public works building full time. Council member Stephanie Moncrief commented she was pleased with the safety signage and precautions she saw while the workers were cutting limbs in her neighborhood and the city was very lucky to Mr. Pilgrim working in his position.
3. **Clerk's Report** - City Clerk Keegan Ramsey read the balances of the city's bank accounts.
4. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Moore reported that the sewer plant has started to generate income. Mayor Moore also reported that the HVAC system at the library has been repaired after parts shipping delays due to covid. Mayor Moore commented that the crosswalk for the Walnut Grove High School has been completed and more crosswalk marker signs were ordered to be installed.

XIV. TOWN HALL DISCUSSION – Mr. Gibson asked if there was a timeframe for the proposed intersection roundabout. Mayor Moore commented that the DOT would make a decision later this year.

XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS – **Council member Jon Dial** thanked everyone for attending. He also noted that Dial Farm has a new marque sign and landscaping the front entrance. He also mentioned the need for lighting and street signs for the entrance. **Council member Linda Pilgrim** thanked everyone for attending and also thanked the principal for his presentation. **Council member Stephanie Moncrief** had no comments.

XVI. ADJOURN – Council member Stephanie Moncrief made motion. Council member Jon Dial seconded. Passed unanimous.