

WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Present at Meeting:

Mayor Lamar Lee
Kevin Shultz
Mark Moore
Linda Pilgrim
Carol Witcher
Mike Malcom, City Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

Kevin Shultz made a motion to accept William Coleman's letter to withdraw his application for rezone on Jon Dial property, Linda Pilgrim, seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

II. INVOCATION

Given by Carol Witcher

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Kathy Glass, City Clerk asked for the agenda to be amended to add approval of the minutes from the Work Session held on Thursday March 1, 2018. Kevin Shultz made a motion we add the minutes from the Work Session March 1, 2018 for approval, Mark Moore seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Walnut Grove Library – Don Cannon spoke on behalf of the library. Thanked the Council and mayor for the opportunity to speak and thanked them for their service to the City. Also he knows the duties and responsibilities placed upon them and the decisions they have to make. He recognized the limitations the City faces and knows choices must be made. The library also has choices to make and as a result of the reduction in funding that took place in August of last year they are forced to reduce the hours of operation. Later this month they will stop being open on Sundays and will eliminate the extended hours of operation on Thursday evenings. The letter he presented to the Council outlined the request for reinstatement of the funds. To us it appears evident that the growth of the library from 15,480 patron visits in 2013 to over 25,500 in 2017 demonstrates the Walnut Grove Library is an integral part of the City of Walnut Grove and your contribution and support is well placed. We appreciate what you have provided and ask for your continued support that we might better meet the needs of our patrons. If you have any questions about any of this letter please don't hesitate to call me, Amy or Ben Carter. We welcome the opportunity to answer your questions.

Mike Malcom – Is there anyone else who wished to address the Council during Public Comment?

Maxine McClanahan resident of Walnut Grove – She stated she has been a supporter of the library from the very beginning and spent quite a bit of time organizing "Friends of the Library" organization. It is her belief that we should support the library in any way we can as a City. She was at the meetings in May, June, July & August and it was very clear there were to be adjustments to the library funding. It is now more than 6 months since that budget was prepared and set for Walnut Grove and it is my personal belief that it can cause a hardship for this City to try to recapture those funds for the past few months. So I do not believe this topic should be reopened. Mike Malcom asked if there were anyone else who wished to speak. Hearing none the meeting was turned back over to Mayor Lee.

VI. MINUTES APPROVAL: FEBRUARY 8, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mark Moore made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Kevin Shultz seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

MINUTES APPROVAL: MARCH 1, 2018 WORK SESSION

Kevin Shultz made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Mark Moore seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Report given by Alan Barton, Public Works Director -- I got a few estimates about things we have talked about.

#1. Crosswalk on Park St at the Park Entrance. I have three estimates. All the estimates are on a state approved crosswalk. It will be a thermal plastic crosswalk. I have these priced two ways. One is the crosswalk and then extra will be on each side of the pedestrian crosswalk. It reflects at night. **First one** is \$1,750 and the pedestrian crossing was \$1,100 additional making this one \$2,850.00 the **second one** \$1,400 and the pedestrian crossing on this one wasn't added. The **last one** was \$1,411 and the pedestrian crossing will add \$1,270 making this total \$2,681. So we can put the cross walk and then add a sign some feet back reading pedestrian crossing. I've done some research on the sign and those signs will cost approximately \$100 a piece and we will need two of them. So the cheapest way out will be \$200.00 added to the \$1400.

You are looking at \$1,600 with two signs and a regular crosswalk. Kevin Shultz asked if the more expensive signs light up before you cross. Alan Barton -- No. Kevin Shultz asked why they are so expensive and was told it is because they reflect like the crosswalk. It would be PED XING on plastic thermal placed on the roadway just like the crosswalk.

Mark Moore asked where would this crosswalk be placed. Alan Barton -- Right at the only entrance into the park. There was discussion about the location of the crosswalk in relation to the gate entering the park. Also they discussed Georgia's state law regarding pedestrian traffic and their rights.

#2 Dead Pecan tree at City Hall. Berhl Budd with the Forestry Department has told the City this is a dead tree and needs to be removed before it falls and causes damage. I got three estimates, one from Scarborough Tree Service they have always done our tree work with the City. Their estimate will be for taking down the tree clean up the debris and grind the stump. #2 - \$1,400 from Johnson Tree Service for the same thing and #3 From Total outdoor is \$900 for the same thing. This is something that needs to be addressed tonight before a big wind storm takes down this tree and crushes the Mayor's car. Kevin Shultz asked the City Attorney if this amount is something the Mayor can take care of without Council approval. The City Attorney said it would require a vote from the Council.

I've had several people come to me here at the Park and as you know we have a policy no dogs in the park. Some have asked about making the park "dog friendly". For people to walk their dogs on a leash as long as the clean up behind them like a lot of other parks. I thought I would bring that up and let the Council consider that. Kevin Shultz asked Mayor Lee if we could get that on one of our next meetings. Carol Witcher asked if the City Attorney would look into this and make sure we follow the regulations in the state of Georgia for dog parks.

#3 I know last month you thought I was crazy for washing all the signs in the City but it seems since they have been washed a lot of them look brand new. There are only 4 or 5 of them that will need to be replaced. I think we saved the City a lot of money by just cleaning up signs where you can tell if they are new or old.

#4. The sidewalks are marked. We have money that has to be used for our sidewalks and roads in the City. They are marked for Precision Planning to come out and tally up what all we have to do. We will use what money we have to do that with.

#5. We have the first hook up on the sewer system. Silt Saver doesn't have the building up yet but they have connected to the sewer line. I've been dealing with them the last couple of weeks. We are just waiting on them to get their building done and then we will be in operation on the sewer plant.

#6. I talked with E.R. Snell, one of their guys week before last. They are about to pave from somewhere around Park St. down to Habersham. They will grind up all the bad places, patch them and come back and resurface the road.

#7. They have started on the extension to the sewer system to the Fire/EMS Station. Unfortunately they are drilling rock to start with so I don't know how long this will take. They have two drilling machines down there.

#8. We have the park ready. The ball fields are rented and the Pavilion is ready for renters too.

#9. The spray field has a lot of weeds coming up that will kill the Bermuda grass if we don't spray. I talked to the guys that put the pre-emergent down when Lanier was doing the spray field. They gave me a price of \$1,500.00 to put the chemicals on it spray it to kill all the weeds so the Bermuda grass could grow. It is time to put this down on the 17 acres over there. We need to look at this in the next couple of weeks. Since we don't have any sewage in the ponds yet we will have to fertilize it to keep it from dying out. One application of the fertilizer will run anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,000 to fertilize that Bermuda grass when it starts putting out.

#10. Back while I was out with my shoulder and Irma came through and blew these trees down it blew them on the park fence in two places. The clerk got an estimate from a fence company for \$850.00 to repair the fence. Week before last I took it on myself to fix it. Me and the guys fixed the fence for \$108.00 and saved the City a little money there. Carol and Linda thanked Alan.

Mike Malcom – For the tree removal it would take a motion. Carol Witcher made a motion to amend the agenda to allow this as an action item, Mark Moore seconded the motion, motion passed. It will be moved to 14A under New Business. Carol Witcher asked Alan Barton if the tree once it is taken down could be donated to someone to use. Alan said it would not be good for anything except to maybe cook on. Carol Witcher we have an oak tree coming Thursday.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Katherine A. Glass City Clerk directed the mayor and Council to the copy of the financials in their notebooks. Kevin Shultz made a motion the financials be accepted as submitted, Mark Moore seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

IX. CLERK'S REPORT

Activity report given on all business licenses, citations, other permits and park reservations given by Katherine Glass.

X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Grant Satterfield, Code Enforcement Officer – We had three of our retail establishments come in and get their business license. Notice of Ordinance Violation I have seven resolved issues and seven pending. The next step is the warning. I have two of these resolved and 1 still pending. The one pending has been reduced to a warning after they brought the issue into compliance. Last month we had a driveway on Hwy 138 that was dumping debris into the driveway. He has attempted to correct this.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

As mentioned before the sewer extension is going to the new Fire/EMS Station. It is running along the creek through the woods. It will service the ballpark as well as other development there too. Lawrenceville Gas is running another big line up Hwy 81. Arbor Day Celebration is coming up. Turned over to Carol Witcher – traditionally we have tried to do this in March but this year we will have it on the official day for the US Arbor Day which is April 27th. We will meet at City Hall and present the new Tree City Flag, plaque and road signs. Last year Publix donated cookies, we had water for every person that came and no one came. We were ready willing and we had all kinds of activities for children to do. Adults can learn how to correctly plant a tree and we might have handouts from the forestry. Mr. Bud and Alan will be putting the tree in this Thursday. But the formal event we have will be April 27 this year at 3:00 p.m. I tried not to do it on Saturday because it is the only time some people have to be off with their family. I invite you all to come. We are looking for people to put on a tree board. If you are interested please contact me. Unknown person asked for clarification on the date. Carol responded Friday April 27th at 3:00 p.m. Unknown Person responded the kids are not out of school at that time. Carol changed the time to 4:00 p.m. She stated she didn't want to make it much later as the City Staff leave at 5:00 p.m. Mark Moore asked if there was a representative from the Lions Club and if they were going to donate a tree to the Library to replace a dying/dead Dogwood Tree.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Speed Zone Ordinance – 2nd reading

Mike Malcom did the 2nd reading. DOT approved our speed in the City as amended by Councilman Shultz. This will include the speed limit on Park St being reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph as the Council voted to do. Kevin Shultz made a motion to approve the speed zone ordinance, Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tree Removal

Carol Witcher made a motion to accept the bid from Scarborough Tree Service to cut down, remove and grind stump for \$950.00, Kevin Shultz seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEM

None

XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kevin Shultz – Thanked everyone for coming out. He stated he knew a lot of people are concerned about the library. He thanked Don Cannon and Maxine McClanahan for speaking in those regards. He said he would take a look at the City's budget and see if there was something that could be done for the library. If so he would present it to the Council for possible action later on.

Mark Moore – Thanked everyone for coming and thanked Kevin Shultz for working on the speed zone ordinance.

Linda Pilgrim – Agreed with Councilman Shultz on the library and if there is anyway to make it right and put it back like it was she would support that.

Carol Witcher – We have a City tax coming and because we do we hopefully can add some monies back to the library. But in reflection this Council has only two council people who were sitting here at the original budget hearing last year. We are coming into our new budget area in June so that gives us 4 months to search and find what we can to carry over and possibly find what you have asked for. She spoke of her support of the library and what it means to the community. If there is any way possible to come up with additional funding without short sighting anybody we will do our best. She stated she was thrilled to see a big crowd and invited them to come back next month.

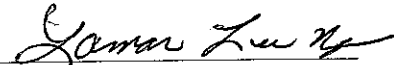
XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION, *if needed*

ADJOURN

Kevin Shultz made a motion to adjourn, Linda Pilgrim seconded the motion, motion passed.

Adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this 10th day of May, 2018.


Mayor Lamar Lee


Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk