

# WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018

7:00 P.M.

Present:

Mayor Lamar Lee  
Carol Witcher  
Kevin Shultz  
Wayne Dimsdale  
Kathy Dimsdale  
Mark Moore  
Linda Pilgrim

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

**II. INVOCATION**

Invocation given by Mike Malcom

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL**

City Clerk requested the agenda be amended as follows: to add a Proclamation for Walnut Grove School Choice Week as item F under New Business and Item G under new Business would be the Speed Limit Ordinance.

Motion made to amend and approve agenda by Kevin Shultz, seconded by Wayne Dimsdale, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

**V. MINUTES APPROVAL: DECEMBER 14, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Motion made minutes be approved as submitted by Kevin Shultz, seconded by Kathy Dimsdale, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Stephanie Moncrief wanted to follow up on issues discussed at the last Council Meeting. She was told these items were not on the Agenda for tonight's meeting. She said she didn't put the items on the agenda last month and they discussed it. The City Attorney told her she spoke under Public Comment last month and asked her if she had a public comment this time. She wanted to discuss speeding in her subdivision and in Walnut Grove in general. It was discussed at that time and the City Engineer said it was a possibility that our city streets were not listed allowing deputies to come in on their streets and write tickets. They do not

do this and they have always told us they don't. He stated he would check on this and get with you and if they were not allowed on these streets it could be changed. The other issue was a community meeting with the Sheriff. We talked about having a meeting with the Sheriff because of the growth and speeding and that they only wrote nine tickets in the month of November for speeding. We thought that was a little low considering I could write nine tickets in fifteen minutes. The board suggested we have the Sheriff come out answer some questions and let us know what is happening as the City grows. I never heard anything back about that either. That is what I wanted an update on. Mayor Lee stated the holidays threw a wrench in a lot of things. The City Clerk stated she didn't hear back from the City Engineer, Jimmy Parker. Ms. Moncrief asked if there were any follow up from the Mayor or City Clerk on these issues and was told no. She asked if Mayor Lee thought it would be a good idea as President of her Homeowners Association that she contact the Sheriff directly regarding a Community Meeting in her neighborhood. She was told yes, go ahead. She asked about the street issue.

Mike Malcom, City Attorney advised Ms. Moncrief that public comment should only last 5 minutes by Walnut Grove City Ordinance but since the issue seemed like a big issue so we allowed it to continue for about 45 minutes. We have business to conduct tonight so she was encouraged to be proactive and talk to the Council outside of the meeting so as to not take up the whole meeting time. Also she can be as proactive as she wants to be with the Sheriff. Typically these issues are discussed outside of the meeting. Public Comment does allow you to come and apprise them of the issue but we have agenda items as well tonight. Kevin Shultz offered to stay after the meeting to discuss her issues with her. Carol Witcher offered to discuss any issue by phone or email too.

## **VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Alan Barton, Director of Public Works – We are trying to keep the streets trimmed up, trash picked up and everything looking good. We had to keep the ice off the streets like last week with salt on the ice. We had the lawnmower fixed and got it back today. I believe we will have to have a new one soon. Other than that everything else is looking good. The new business behind the liquor store is coming along good. Carol Witcher asked where the lawnmower was repaired. She was told the XMark was taken to Social Circle Ace because they are a dealer and the SKAG to Conyers because they are a SKAG dealer. I don't know what kind we will buy next. Alan said John Deere looked like a better product than the others. Looks like the gas line is coming on through Walnut Grove and he hopes it won't be a big mess. Carol Witcher asked if the sidewalks were broken if they City would have to replace the sidewalks? Alan Barton said no they would replace it. It would just have to be watched so people wouldn't trip on broken sidewalks until it is repaired. He said he hoped they would drill under it and not break them up.

Motion made by Kevin Shultz to amend the agenda by moving Item "a" under New Business next to accommodate Superior Court Judge Eugene M. Benton who will be swearing in the new Council Members. Seconded by Kathy Dimsdale, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Judge Eugene M. Benton swore in the new Council Members, Steven Mark Moore and Linda Pilgrim. Judge Benton congratulated the new council members.

At this time Council members Wayne and Kathy Dimsdale stepped down and Mark Moore and Linda Pilgrim took their seats as new council members.

Mayor Lee presented Wayne Dimsdale and Kathy Dimsdale with plaques in honor of their service to Walnut Grove.

#### **VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT**

City Clerk, Katherine Glass directed the Council Members to the report in their notebooks. Carol Witcher made a motion to approve the financials as submitted; Kevin Schultz seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed, unanimous.

#### **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 - No new news to report but the ones I have been talking to are coming in compliance.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Following the Council Meeting tonight we will have light refreshments to honor Wayne & Kathy Dimsdale for their service to the City of Walnut Grove and to celebrate our new council members Mark Moore and Linda Pilgrim.

Walton County will celebrate their 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. The County will be having a yearlong celebration. The Cities have been asked to participate by issuing a proclamation in honor of the occasion and when the new Walton County Flag is delivered to our City we should fly it on our flagpole then we will deliver it to Jersey. We hope we can get a horse and buggy to take the flag to Jersey from Walnut Grove. I will wear my suit which was purchased for the Heritage Festival.

The Walnut Grove proclamation for National School week will be January 21<sup>st</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. We have a proclamation on that too later on.

#### **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **b. Election of Mayor Pro-Tem**

Linda Pilgrim nominated Mark Moore for Mayor Pro-Tem. Kevin Shultz seconded the motion. Carol Witcher interjected she would like to make a statement. Mr. Moore I have all respect for you but you are newly seated on this Council. You have only been with us for a minute and a half. I personally think it needs to be someone who sits on council with more experience and more GMA training and background and for that reason I will not second it. And I am going to place my own name in nomination and I will tell you why. I have 72 hours of training transcripts from GMA; I have already received a certificate of recognition. I shall receive on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month a certificate of achievement which is 72 hours of study. I have already received through GMA the Economic Development Regional Leadership Development on May 3, 2012. I have taken classes that consist of Practices for Successful Meetings, Open Meetings, Taxation Basic

1 & 2, Municipal Finance, Roles and Responsibilities for Council and Staff, Public Policy Development and Implementation, Municipal Law Update, Trend in Urban Design, Open Records, Municipal Water and Waste Water Treatments. I feel I have every right to ask my name be placed in nomination for Mayor Pro-Tem. I have six years on this council. And I have educated myself every way I possibly can. No disrespect to you in any way. Down the road somewhere I will probably place your name in nomination myself. But right now I don't think you have enough experience to do so. Mark Moore responded by saying he has been President and Vice President of the Lion's Club for over 10 years. He also has experience in his business life. He replied he doesn't not have the amount of government experience that Ms. Witcher has but he does get along with everyone and works well with others. But it is whatever the council decides. He stated Linda Pilgrim with her background would also make a good Mayor Pro Tem. He nominated Linda Pilgrim as Mayor Pro-Tem. There was no second to this motion. Mayor Lee asked Mike Malcom what we needed next. He advised there was no second to Ms. Witcher's nomination either. So a vote is needed on the motion and second. The Clerk clarified the motion on the table is the motion for Mark Moore as Mayor Pro-Tem. Mark Moore asked before the vote took place if he was supposed to vote for himself. Mike Malcom advised as a councilmember he could vote. Kevin Shultz stated when he was sworn in he was also voted as Mayor Pro-Tem and so he didn't have any experience either. But he did have knowledge and experience with government with his time through working with county and city governments as law enforcement and the United States Military with more than 10 years. Mayor Lee called for a vote. The vote was Linda Pilgrim, yes, Mark Moore, yes, Kevin Shultz, yes and Carol Witcher, opposed. Vote carried.

**c. Appointments**

- I. City Clerk – Katherine A. Glass
- II. Deputy Clerk – Sonya R. Cox
- III. Public Works Director – Alan D. Barton
- IV. Code Enforcement Officer – Grant Satterfield
- V. City Attorney – Mike Malcom
- VI. City Engineer – Precision Planning, Inc.
- VII. Municipal Court Judge – Samuel M. Barth

Kevin Shultz made a motion the appointments be accepted as presented, Mark Moore seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**d. Re-Appointment of Board of Trustees at Walnut Grove Library**

- I. Kimberly Cliatt
- II. Lauren Gilreath
- III. Stephanie Schrack
- IV. Don Cannon
- V. Guy Hall

Kevin Shultz made a motion the appointments for the Board of Trustees at the Walnut Grove Library be accepted as presented, Linda Pilgrim seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**e. WALTON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DAY PROCLAMATION**

The City Clerk directed the Council Members to a letter from Walton County Commission Chairman, Kevin Little asking the Cities in Walton County to issue a

Proclamation declaring January 30, 2018 as Celebration Day. Also each City will participate in carrying the new Walton County Flag from City to City ending up at the Walton County Courthouse. Kevin Shultz made a motion to adopt the Bicentennial Celebration Day Proclamation, Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for celebration, motion carried unanimously.

**f. WALNUT GROVE SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK PROCLAMATION**

The City Clerk explained the Walnut Grove School Choice Week Proclamation recognizes January 21 – 27<sup>th</sup> as School Choice Week in Walnut Grove. The City was asked by this committee and the State of Georgia to adopt this proclamation. Kevin Shultz made a motion to adopt the Walnut Grove School Choice Week Proclamation, seconded by Mark Moore, opportunity for discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**g. SPEED ZONE ORDINANCE**

City Attorney Mike Malcom – Over the holidays the City received a letter from the Georgia Department of Transportation in regards to the speed limits. As a part of the City's task we help verify that all the speed limit signs were per our ordinance which you have in front of you. We will have the second reading at the next Council Meeting in order to adopt this. It is my understanding that these speeds have been verified. You will have between now and the next meeting to read this and go through it. This will allow speed detection devices to be used on city streets. It will need to be adopted at the next meeting. There was discussion regarding the speeds listed on certain streets.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**XIII. DISCUSSION ITEM**

**XIV. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Linda Pilgrim** – I'm excited to be here and excited to serve my City. I've been here a long time there are three guys back there, two were born here and one has been here since he was two. My husband's picture is hanging outside the door. I've got some big shoes to fill but I am willing to work hard, try hard, pray hard and we will get through this and do some good things for the City of Walnut Grove.

**Mark Moore**- I second that as far as having big shoes to fill. I appreciate the City for the residents for voting us in. We are going to work hard for you. We are here and if you need to contact me I am available. Thank you again for putting me in office and I won't let you down.

**Kevin Shultz** – Congratulations to both of you on your election. I'm glad to see you both sitting on Council. I've know n you both for a while now. You will do great things. Just reach out to me, Ms. Witcher or the Mayor if you have any questions or concerning. I think both of you with your experiences, Mrs. Pilgrim with your husband serving on City Council I know you know a lot about how this all work and Mr. Moore with your experience with the

Lions Club Organization. Their meetings are very similar to the meetings that go on here. I look forward to serving with you guys. To Wayne and Kathy I can't express or say enough to you guys for your service to the City. Our friendship outside of the City Council. My daughter thinks the world of both of you. She calls Wayne Grandpa and Lamar Grandpop. When she comes home from school she makes it a point to go see Wayne and Kathy and Lamar. We expect to see you at least once a month at the City Council Meetings. Congratulations on your retirement into regular civilian life.

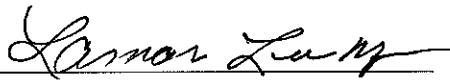
**Carol Witcher** – Congratulations to both of you. Your heart is in the City and that is the most important thing. I'm looking forward to working with you and seeing what we can do to make this City great.

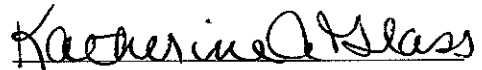
**Mayor Lee** - In closing I'd like to thank both of you for putting yourself out there to be on City Council. I look forward to working with you both. Wayne and Kathy you know I am not saying anything else. Wayne is like a brother and I will miss him.

Kevin Shultz made a motion we adjourn, seconded by Mark Moore, Motion carried unanimously.

**Council meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

Approved by the Mayor and Council this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

  
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Mayor Lamar Lee

  
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Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk