

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019
MINUTES

Present:

Mayor Lamar Lee
Carol Witcher
Mark Moore
Linda Pilgrim

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

II. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Carol Witcher

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the pledge of allegiance

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Clerk, Katherine Glass asked to have the agenda amended as follows: Under OLD BUSINESS Advertise bid for repairing and pouring new sidewalks in the City of Walnut Grove confirming where to repair and where to pour new sidewalks. Under NEW BUSINESS add: Approve low bidder on Street Resurfacing Program in Cambridge Chase Subdivision. Linda Pilgrim made a motion to amend the agenda as requested, Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed. Mark Moore made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments, seconded by Linda Pilgrim, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. MINUTES APPROVAL FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mark Moore made a motion to approve the February 14, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes as presented, Linda Pilgrim seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Given by Alan Barton, Public Works Director

Everything in the City is going well. He reported the sidewalk had been repaired in Cambridge by Walton County Water Department, but they had not repaired the one on Park St. The mulching has been completed at City Hall and behind the library, it looks good. There was an issue at the Sewer Plant. He will have to have an electrician come out and look at it.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mark Moore made a motion the financials be approved as presented, Linda Pilgrim seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

IX. CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk gave a report of all the activity during the month of February.

X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer not present, no report given.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Church at the Grove is expanding its parking lot due to growth.

On February 19th we had a bid opening at City Hall for the paving job at Cambridge Chase Subdivision. The low bidder was Pittman Construction Company.

On February 25th The City Clerk, Mayor Pro Tem Carol Witcher and I attended a meeting with the ARC (Atlanta Regional Commission) and GA DOT.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Advertise bid for repairing and pouring new sidewalks in the City of Walnut Grove confirming where to repair and where to pour new. Mark Moore made a motion to postpone this issue until the April council meeting when Kevin Shultz will be present, Carol Witcher seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve low bidder on street resurfacing program in Cambridge Chase Subdivision. Carol Witcher made a motion to accept the low bidder on the street resurfacing program in Cambridge Chase, Pittman Construction Company, Mark Moore seconded the motion, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEM

None

XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mark Moore – He thanked the people for coming and stated today had been a very productive day working on the budget. He really thanked everyone for coming out.

Linda Pilgrim - It has been a productive day and we got a lot accomplished and we still need volunteers for our citizens committee and if anybody is interested just let us know.

Kevin Schultz - Not present

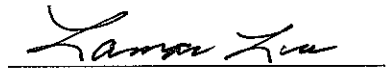
Carol Witcher - Thanks for everybody for coming out. It is good to see almost a full house and that is a good thing. This is your city as well as the Council's city and if you have someone at home who can't get out and come to the meeting they can go online, and they can also contact any of us. We did have a productive meeting and some exciting things coming for this city. Thank you and be safe.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION, if needed

XVII. ADJOURN

Mark Moore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carol Witcher, motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Approved by Mayor and City Council this 11 day of April 2019.



Mayor Lamar Lee



Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk

WALNUT GROVE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

Present:

Lamar Lee, Mayor
Carol Witcher, Mayor Pro Tem
Linda Pilgrim
Mark Moore

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee

II. INVOCATION

Given by Carol Witcher

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. DISCUSSION OF BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

Councilman Mark Moore- Started out the discussion by asking the City Clerk questions about the insurance premiums. She explained why it is going up since adding the sewer plant and all the buildings at that location. He specifically asked about moving money from one line item to another to insure some of the expenses didn't go over budget. Councilwoman Carol Witcher- ask if we could just make note of what needed changing and have that available for when they really got into the budget planning. City Clerk Kathy Glass- explained that we would probably collect about \$190,000 from our City Taxes. If we keep the mileage rate the same, it should be around that same amount. Councilwoman Carol Witcher- as long as the people see what the City is spending the tax dollars on like paving and sidewalks, I think they are ok. The Council discussed amending the current budget. The City Clerk told them we have never amended the budget in the middle of the year, and we have gone up and down on line items. If we are balanced at the end of the year, we are fine. Councilman Mark Moore- asked the question, do we have to spend all the money that is collected from the taxes? Clerk Kathy Glass- explained that you do not have to spend it all, you can invest it. There was discussion about having a three-month reserve to run the City in case of an emergency. Councilman Moore stated it is normal practice to have 3 months of operating cost as emergency fund set up if something where to happen. City councilwoman- Carol Witcher agreed that it was very important to have an emergency fund. City Clerk Kathy Glass- explained that we have money in our Money Market account, and it is growing.

City Clerk Kathy Glass- suggested focusing on next year's budget because we are going to be having public hearings coming up on the 2019/2020 budget. Councilman Mark Moore- What do we actually need the ad valorem tax for. City Clerk Kathy Glass- she said that she had just opened a new SPLOST Account and there was \$0.00 in there. So right now, I am spending


out what we have in the old account. I just wrote a check for the patching in Cambridge and we still are going to be paving Cambridge which we are going to vote on which paving company tonight. We will be spending out the old SPLOST account and you have got to be careful that you don't spend everything and hold some reserves. We passed our property tax on the need for paving streets, we have got to be careful, when you put those bids out and they run up to about \$200,000 you have to have the money. So, we just need to watch and save and just do a little bit at a time. We have about \$180,000 in the account, so when you get down to \$80,000 you just want to sit on that and let it build. Councilman Moore - I know some of you have not heard from people about the ad valorem like I have, and I want to come back with an answer and say this is why we are charging this is because this is what we need to take care of. Now the roads are being fixed by the SPLOST. Mayor Lee- that is SPLOST and property tax. Council woman Carol Witcher- Can I suggest that those people asking questions can come to City Council meeting. And they can ask questions at any City Council meeting. City councilman Mark Moore- Some of these people are homebound, but that is neither here nor there I just want to make sure that we can justify what we are charging people that is all. City Clerk- Kathy Glass- When we start having meetings on the budget and taxes that is when they need to come. Before the last election on SPLOST there were meetings and every city agreed that a certain percentage off the top would go to 911 communications to furnish officers new radios. Then the balance of SPLOST is dispersed monthly as it comes in. Smaller cities don't get as much as big cities. There was discussion about training and how much we needed to put in the budget for that. There was discussion about separating the continuing education in the budget with each councilmember having a set amount to draw from for training. City council woman Carol Witcher- Ask the attorney what is West Laws information charges? Mike Malcom explained it is an online law library. He explained when he logs into the portal it records the amount of time spent researching and then creates a bill. The Council discussed Code Red and its importance to the City. The City Clerk informed them that they had cut our rates from \$3,000.00 to \$1,500.00 a year. City Clerk- Kathy Glass ask if the meeting could be adjourned to have a break before the City Council Meeting started.

ADJOURN

Linda Pilgrim made a motion to adjourn, Carol Witcher seconded that motion, motion passed.

Adjourned at 6:50

Mayor Lamar Lee



City Clerk Kathy Glass

