

**City Council**  
**Walnut Grove City Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 13,2019 7:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

**Present:**  
**Mayor Lamar Lee**  
**Carol Witcher**  
**Linda Pilgrim**  
**Mark Moore**  
**Kevin Schultz**

- 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. **AGENDA APPROVAL:**  
**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to amend the agenda by adding under new Business:
  - E. Bill from Maloy's Auto Service
  - F. Bill from Precision Planning
  - G. Bill from Preston and Malcom**Councilwoman Pilgrim-** seconded the motion, motion passed.  
**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to approve the amended agenda, **Councilman Moore**, seconded the motion, motion passed.
  
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
None
  
- VI. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** May 9, 2019 City Council Meeting  
**Councilman Schultz** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, **Councilwoman Witcher** seconded the motion, motion passed.
  
- VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Public Works Director not present, no report.
  
- VIII. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Given by **Katherine Glass- City Clerk.**

**Councilman Moore** asked the City Clerk why the bill for paving Cambridge Chase Subdivision was paid out of the General Fund Account and not the SPLOST account. He stated he thought the vote was to pave Cambridge Subdivision and it was stated to be paid from the SPLOST funds. The Clerk stated she would have to look into it let him know.

**IX. CLERK'S REPORT:** Given by City Clerk Katherine Glass

**X. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT :** no report.

**XI. MAYORS REPORT:** Mayor Lee reported Precision Planning has started the process of bidding the sidewalks downtown. Also, he expressed his condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Moore for the passing of her father, Mr. Johnson.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS:**

Emerald Cove subdivision cul-de-sac:

Alan Barton, the Director of Public Works was getting bids from concrete companies. He was not present at the meeting. The Council discussed the issue of how to fix the middle section and the possibility of just doing away with the middle portion and paving it over. It was decided the Council would like to hear from someone at the Walton County Board of Education in their transportation department about if this were fixed how the bus would pick up the students. Also the Council would like to hear from a representative of the HOA of Emerald Cove on their thoughts of how to address this issue.

**Councilman Shultz** made a motion that the Council table this item until they get feed-back from Walton Co. Board of Education and the HOA of Emerald Cove.

**Councilman Moore** seconded the motion. **Councilwoman Witcher** stated she thought a time frame should be set on the amount of time that they respond back to the Council because they might want it completed prior to school beginning.

**Councilman Shultz**-I think we should set a date to consider it at our next scheduled meeting. We have a motion and a second. **Mayor Lee**- All in favor, motion passed.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS-**

**A. Adoption of the 2019/2020 Annual Budget**

**Councilwoman Witcher** made a motion to accept the 2019/2020 budget as printed **Councilman Shultz**- seconded that motion, **Mayor Lee**- All in favor? **Councilman Moore and Councilwoman Pilgrim** voted nay, the vote was tied. **Mayor Lee** broke the tie in favor, motion passed.

**B. City Council monthly pay increase to \$100.00 per month.**

**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to approve, seconded by **Councilwoman Witcher**, opportunity for discussion, motion passed.

**C. Mayor Monthly Pay- Increase to \$300.00 per month.**

**Councilman Shultz-** made a motion to approve, **Councilwoman Witcher,** seconded that motion and **Councilman Moore-** abstained from voting, motion passed.

**D. Cost of General Business License- Increase to \$100.00**

**Councilman Moore-** made a motion to approve and then discussion was held and the Council decided to raise the fee of a General business license to \$125.00. **Councilman Shultz-**made a motion to raise the cost of a general business license to \$125.00 a year. **Councilman Moore-** revised his motion to raise the General Business License fee to \$125.00 a year, **Councilman Shultz** seconded the motion, motion passed.

**XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**E. Maloy's Auto Service, Inc Bill**

**Councilman Moore** made a motion to pay the bill, **Councilman Shultz,** seconded that motion, motion passed.

**F. Precision Planning, Inc. bill**

**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to approve the bill, **Councilwoman Pilgrim-**seconded the motion, motion passed.

**G. Preston & Malcom, Attorneys at Law bill**

**Councilman Shultz** made a motion to approve the bill, **Councilman Moore,** seconded that motion, motion passed.

**XV. COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Mark Moore-** I want to take this opportunity to clarify my choice of words in our May work session, I inadvertently used the word "**found money**" instead of supplemental income when in describing how our SPLOST account relates to our budget. I feel the budget should show SPLOST funds can change and rely solely on SPLOST to find some of our City's financial needs and expenses that lead to some of our budget short comings. To properly plan for our City's future our budget and our monthly financials should show each area of income and expense for example showing line items for the sewer showing income and expenses that have been missing from our budget in the past. Even though the funds were paid out of our SPLOST account. Also showing budgeted funds for current or future work running sidewalk, restoration or the City downtown development. What we need is a two, five, and ten-year plan in our budget to fund our City infrastructure and this is the only way that we can be financially responsible. I also want to say that you notice that I opposed this budget. I feel that with the revised amount of the 2018/2019 budget. When I say revised

amount, we would have an extra \$100,000 in our account. That is also including covering our upcoming 52,000.00 in our upcoming sewer expense and keeping a \$120,000 in our or a \$110,000 in our roads and sidewalk repairs and cut our millage rate in half which is what I believe should happen. I don't believe that at this current time we are treating our taxes in the best interest for our City. Now we had a public comment questioning what our education expenses are? Since 2015 the education budget has went from \$10,000.00 a year to the current budgeted amount to \$28,000.00. I am all for education but I believe there is an oversight on how this money should be spent on how much money we should tie up budget for more important things like addressing the speeding issue on Park St with some kind of speed control measures and in our subdivisions that is something that our citizens have asked for us to do. That is something we should plan for in our future. Just like it was brought up that we need to bring in sidewalks from where they currently are all the way up to Hwy 81. That is something that should be planned for and that is something that has to be brought up and planned for over the next 5 to 10 years that is something that we have to budget for. This is where I stand as a City Council and I feel this City can be fiscally and financially responsible. Thank you.

**Linda Pilgrim:** None

**Kevin Shultz-** I will keep it kind of short, I want to offer my condolence to Mark and his wife Kim on the passing of Mark's father-in-law. Please extend my condolences to your wife also. Thank you for everyone coming out tonight. That is all I have thank you.

**Carol Witcher-** Years ago when I was teaching school, and I taught 31 years, I claimed a phrase and I still believe it in my heart, my soul and my spirit this day. Ignorance is the master of the uneducated. We can sit here and be as ignorant as we choose to be, or we can sit here and educate ourselves and do the absolute best for this City. These classes that I have taken have not been Mickey Mouse classes. They are very intense, and they are very worthy, I bring information back. I want this City to grow but, I want it to grow like this school down here. We have the most beautiful school in the County. We could not ask for a better principal than Sean Callahan. Without education you may as well go to a closet turn the light off stand there in the dark and wonder what you are supposed to do next. Education is the key to everything we do in life. If you don't think that is true go to the Dr.'s office and try to understand take this needle and take a shot every day and not telling you how much, not telling you why, not telling you what for, not telling you how much it cost. You don't walk

into a Dr's office without educating yourself. Going to a him/her and saying what do I do, how do I do?

You don't go buy a car without educating yourself, if we are going to put our external money into this City it is for the benefit of the City. I have been here eight years and I have educated myself through the processes of the Harold Holtz University of Georgia political processes. Every single person in this room should require every single person setting up here in front of you to educate themselves to everything that this State has to offer through its University programs in how to maintain and run and keep our City. If we lose the City Charter, we would not have a fire department, you won't have anything. We could lose our City Charter if we continue to sit in ignorance and not educate ourselves. Our attorney is very educated, he would not be in this position if he were not. Our other attorney is very educated he would not be in that position if he weren't. Now we can get rid of these two very quickly and say we just don't need you and bring some John and Joe Blossom off the street and put him right here to maintain the decorum that we need to run a correct meeting and to keep us level on things and when we don't know things our first person is right here our next person it right there. They did not get there because they chose not to be educated. I am for education and I will continue to speak to it to the day the good Lord takes me home. You can't do anything without it. And if we are going to sit up here you had better start holding us to a higher standard our feet need to be put to the fire and we should have the appropriate answer for you and if we don't we should not be sitting up here. Think about that.

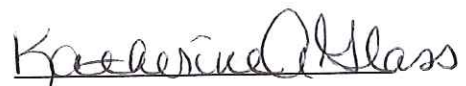
**XVI. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Shultz, seconded by Councilwoman Witcher, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this 11th day of July 2019.

  
Mayor Lamar Lee

  
Katherine A, Glass, City Clerk

**City of Walnut Grove  
Public Hearing  
1021 Park St. Walnut Grove, GA  
Thursday June 13, 2019  
6:30 p.m.**

**Present:  
Mayor Lamar Lee  
Carol Witcher  
Linda Pilgrim  
Mark Moore  
Kevin Shultz**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:**  
Meeting called to order by Mayor Lamar Lee
  
- II. BUDGET 2019/2020 HEARING:**
  
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Maxine McClanahan, 4081 Habersham Circle** - Mayor, Council, Attorney and Residents I am here to speak in regards to the newly proposed budget for 2019/20. After attending, listening and reviewing council discussion and especially the workshop I wanted to make a couple of comments. First was a comment that I heard to have this year's budget to be the same as the revised budget for 2018/2019 and looking at this it seems like good theory but, I would think that having differences in anticipated income we should expect other things to be different as well. And so, to more accurately review the proposed budget I decided to break it down line by line item in the budget total to take a look and I wanted to consider that possibility. I looked at the difference of each line item and I considered the reason for each change and I found most of those changes necessary. There were only six expense line items that were changed by more than \$1,000.00. If anyone wants my opinion why they should stay the way they have been I will be glad to share that information but, based on my calculations I found there is only a difference of \$55,980.00 between the 2 years budget. If we take into account, the two new items on the 19/20 the \$52,500.00 enterprise funds and the \$10,670.00 recreational expense. Then the difference is only \$3,480.00 and that is with the actual 2018/2019 budget being almost \$7,000.00 more than the 2019/2020 budget if you remove

those two items. There was also a suggestion to increase the street and sidewalks up to \$100,000.00. But, I am not sure that was accurate, to me it seems impractical because of the enterprise funds and the recreational money in the Recreational Dept. Mr. Moore made the comment that we should not include SPLOST in our general budget and think of it as "Found Money". In while I agree with that statement in one sense I don't agree with this particular circumstance because, I don't think we should cover all of our expenses for line item that could be covered by SPLOST in our general budget. We could then count on some of this found money and use it to cover those costs otherwise if we make it a large line item we would not be able to use our SPLOST funds in other ways because they are limited. As for other line items the differentials I find are very minimal. So in closing, I would like to say that after additional review the 2019/20 budget looks like a very good budget.

**Cheryl Rainey:** First of all, I want to thank ya'll for reconsidering with the library, every time I go in there it is packed out there. It is great and I do appreciate that and I hope to see more funding because I believe it is growing and I know that the growth is coming down the line. One thing I do have a question about is the training. I do try to attend each month and I know that a big hot button is the training. The budget for training and I am just curious what kind of training is council willing to take and how it benefits the City. I don't know what kind of training is it? **Councilwoman Witcher-** Would you like to finish with your three minutes and then we will explain it because I have over 200 hours of training from the University of Georgia. The training involves State mandated training when you are first elected. Mandated training you must take it within the first two weeks if you don't severe penalties can be given and bad things can happen to the City as well as the people who have not taken it, whomever that might be. The training is offered by the State of Georgia University through the Harold Holtz. It is a system of Government Study. It is in their Government study program and they offer classes and I don't happen to have mine in front of me but there are so many State laws, when you step off of the street to come in here to come in here to office you have been elected you don't know good eating bologna from wild onions. You might think you do probably most of us have thought that because that is untrue. You have to know County law, State law you have understand the different ways that the State receives money that we receive the money as a County that we receive the money as a City ,it covers that it covers the laws that are required that we should know because that we operate under them if we don't operate under the law we could lose our charter that would be a disastrous thing to happen to any City and it has happened in Georgia. And we don't want to ever do that we want to keep ourselves and our people educated to the highest degree that the state offers. It offers things in safety, if offers political arenas that you need to know about those different things, how the taxes work. How the taxes work for the State how it works for us how do we get them what do we do with them. It explains the SPLOST which is a STS ending to us as the people who are attending classes and each person that attends the classes receives hours which are dedicated to the State and the State progresses as you complete a certain number of classes I wish I had known you were going to ask this I would have brought that information with me. And as you progress through the different hours that the State requires you receive

from the State plaques and awards, typically at our State Convention which begins next Friday which takes place in Savannah it is always in Savannah at this point. And you receive certificates I will be receiving my fifth certificate. I am the only one on Council that has that. I think it is a very important thing, if we are going to represent this City and the people who set out there and have voted for us we need to be aware of every single thing that takes place in this State in the way of education. It is offered to us it is a minimal cost compared if you were going to go to college yourself it is a minimal amount of money verses you having to pay for it out of your own pocket and get a degree. I am a 31-year retired educator, I think this council need to be the most educated in the county. We represent you as citizens we represent this City we need to know what is happening in the State , we need to know what is happening in Gwinnett we need to know what is happening in Rossville up in the mountains, we need to know what is happening in Tifton we need to know all of the programs that we can bring back to our City and say to our citizens we have got this program, we have got awards for it we have got this and that and otherwise we are going to set up here and act like a bunch of dumb ducks, and that is just something that I can't abide by. When I took office and ran for office, I did not know anything about it but, the first two weeks thank God for The Mayor and Wayne Dimsdale who said to me, Carol you have got to go and take the classes. I took the classes and I will be honest I was late. I did not know. That cost me \$250.00 out of my pocket because the State fined me that but, then they set me down and told me what I needed to do and how I needed to do it. And from that minute forward I have been enrolled in classes. Everything that I can learn, everything that I can do everything that I can bring back, every program and besides that they have breakouts that are just different people. For instance, one thing last year was how to identify people who are attacking and stealing children and I wanted to know that I wanted to bring that information to us so we can watch the children in our town. Those breakout sessions are free you can attend all of them or none of them. So, it is recommended highly that this Council stay in an education position and if we don't ya'll need to hold us to it.

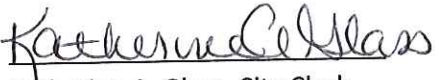
Mayor Lee - Anyone else who would care to speak? Hearing none, seeing none, this part of the session is closed. Thank you for coming thank you for what you said we need to be held with our feet to the fire.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Shultz, seconded by Mark Moore, motion carried.  
Adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Approved by the Mayor and Council this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019.

  
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Mayor Lamar Lee

  
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Katherine A. Glass, City Clerk