



Mayor Mark Moore
Jon Dial
Mary Hall
Linda Pilgrim
Stephanie Moncrief
Jay Crowley
Keegan Ramsey

City of Walnut Grove
COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 8, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Municipal Building -1021 Park St. and via Microsoft Teams

- I. INVOCATION – Don Cannon**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All participated**
- III. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Mark Moore**
- IV. AGENDA APPROVAL – Council member Mary Hall made motion. Council member Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Passed unanimous**
- V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Council member Stephanie Moncrief made motion. Council member Jon Dial seconded. Passed unanimous**
 - 1. Minute's Approval**
 - a. June 10, 2021 Minutes
 - b. June 24, 2021 Minutes
 - 2. Financials**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Budget Summary
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - 1. Community Involvement Committee — Council Member Linda Pilgrim**

Council member Linda Pilgrim discussed the upcoming city park market and a potential car show and movies in the park coming up in the future.
 - 2. Downtown Development Committee — Council Member Mary Hall**

Council member Mary Hall reported upcoming training for July 22nd and the first meeting for DDA on August 23rd.
 - 3. Parks and Recreation Committee — Council Member Mary Hall**

Council member Mary Hall reported the city retreat is scheduled for September 10 and 11th and the food portion has been taken care of.
 - 4. Public Works Committee — Council Member Jon Dial**

Council member Jon Dial reserved comment for new business.
- VII. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION — Don Cannon, Chair**

Don Cannon reported at the last meeting they welcomed Dominic Digrado to his first meeting. He also reported the commission agreed to develop a plan concerning rezoning Forest Glenn to R3 and a public hearing. He reported working on bringing properties in conflict with zoning into compliance and proposed changes to the table of permitted uses. He also discussed a rough draft of bylaws that the commission was working on.
- VIII. PUBLIC FORUM**
 - 1. Public Comments - None**
- IX. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 1. Ordinance for Sewer fines**

City attorney Jay Crowley discussed a proposed ordinance to clarify requirements for sewer tap fees and requirements to qualify for a variance if those guidelines can not be met. He also discussed new requirements for sewer tap billing fees that the council could consider and regulations for new construction moving forward.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution

City attorney Jay Crowley explained this resolution is required for the city to be able to receive federal funds after a disaster. It was noted that there was an error that stated town of Walnut Grove that would be corrected. Council member Mary Hall made motion. Council member Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Passed unanimous.

2. Weed Control

a. Sewer – Council member Jon Dial informed the council on bids that were received for weed control, and fertilizer for the sewer spray field. Mayor Moore elaborated on the savings the city would get by purchasing the equipment and public works doing the labor. Mayor Moore reported he located equipment that could handle the job for approximately \$2200 and council member Jon Dial added the chemicals would average around \$100 per treatment. Council member Stephanie Moncrief asked if public works needed a license to apply the chemicals and council member Jon Dial answered the city sewer contractor had the license to purchase the chemicals. Council member Mary Hall asked the timeframe to see results of the weed control and council member Jon Dial responded results should start to be seen in a couple of months. Mayor Moore indicated he would be moving forward with purchasing the equipment.

b. City Hall/Ballfield – Council member Jon Dial informed the council Kemco quoted \$250 per application up to 5 applications per year and Turf Time quoted \$335 up to 7 applications for city hall. Mayor Moore added he got quotes for a one time fire ant application for \$1000 from Kemco and 5 applications for \$300 each from Turf Time for the city ballfield. Council member Mary Hall asked if the city was able to do the applications if a spreader was purchased. Mayor Moore answered the city does not have the ability to mix the chemicals precisely enough to risk applying in high visibility areas of the city. Council member Stephanie Moncrief asked if the companies have a satisfaction guarantee and Mayor Moore responded both companies did. Mayor Moore noted although the amounts were within his purchasing limits he was informing the council of the bids for transparency.

3. Communication upgrade for Pump Station – Mayor Moore explained the sewer uplift station's alert communication system is now obsolete due to not being 5G compatible. He also explained this equipment needed to be replaced to comply with EPA requirements. Mayor Moore stated he received 2 quotes of approximately \$4500 and a quote of \$3475 and \$276 per year service charge that he approved.

XI. REPORTS

1. Clerk's Report

Keegan Ramsey read the balances of all city bank accounts. He also reported the citations, tickets and rentals for the month.

2. Mayor's Report

Mayor Moore reported he spoke with the GADOT about sitting down with the city to give more information about the Hwy138/HWY81 roundabout project. He also spoke about the paving of Magnolia Springs being underway and the speed tables on Park Street being complete and the positive reaction from citizens. Mayor Moore stated **"Council member Mary Hall brought it to my attention that we have issues from a complaint from a citizen that there are trees that are blocking street lights in Cambridge Chase. First of all I want to make it clear to the citizens that we do not monitor social media for issues with the City of Walnut Grove that they must contact city hall. When they contact city hall a work order is created and public works takes that into consideration and goes and inspects it and makes a game plan. I wanted to let y'all know that that is where we are. Both Brian went out and I went out and took a look at this and we found out that we do have trees that are growing in front of the street lamps. The issue is first of all, these trees have been growing for twenty years. So I've got a feeling and I know we have the right to do so but once I start cutting those trees and removing them I'm gonna have some pretty unhappy residents in Cambridge Chase. But there is a safety issue so that's something that we are gonna have to take a look at, and when I say the trees have to be removed we have to cut them down to the point that it would kill the tree anyway and so this is something that we are going to have to address. With that also note that our dump truck is in repair, once that truck has been repaired we will get the bucket truck, the chipper and the dump truck and we will go out there and start correcting that problem so it has been addressed."** Council member Mary Hall asked if the citizens would be notified before work started and Mayor Moore answered the city would let residents know the city would be removing part of their tree but it is a safety issue and the city is bound to address the issue. Mayor Moore reported the installation of the fencing at 1121 Park Street would be starting soon but he would continue to get quotes in case the installation was not followed through with. Lastly Mayor Moore announced the city hired one new employee Kris Hattibaugh to help with public works.

XII. TOWN HALL DISCUSSION – Billy Coleman asked at what point fertilizer will begin to spray at the sewer plant. Mayor Moore answered that would be up to the city sewer contractor Chris Thomas. Billy Coleman thanked the council for the work that has been done and acknowledged the difficulty in leading and making hard decisions. He also encouraged the council to continue solving issues to accommodate the coming growth. Mayor Moore commented the city signed an agreement for Walton County Water Dept to do the billing for the city's sewer customers and also that council meeting minutes going back to 2015 have been uploaded to the city website for citizens to be able to access. And plans for baseball fields at the corn dawgs property have also been approved.

XIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council member Jon Dial thanked Brian Pilgrim and public works for the job they have been doing.

Council member Mary Hall thanked everyone in attendance and the Mayor for being transparent with his work on the grass bidding.

Council member Linda Pilgrim stated we had a good meeting and we will keep working.

Council member Stephanie Moncrief stated she noticed the grounds around the city look really good.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

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