

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020  
COUNCIL MEETING  
7:00 P.M.**

Present at Meeting:  
Mayor Steven Mark Moore  
Stephanie Moncrief  
Joe Wilchek  
Linda Pilgrim  
Jessie Couch, City Attorney

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark Moore.

**II. INVOCATION**

Invocation given by **Don Hardison – Corinth Christian Church**

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Councilmember Linda Pilgrim amended the agenda to include Mayor Tem discussion under New Business. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Mayor Mark Moore noted a correction under appointments to remove public works manager. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim approved. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mayor Mark Moore noted a correction, Craig Ellington's name needed to be added under Code Enforcement Officer. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous.

**V. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief recommended removing One Main Automotive, LLC from the business license list and moving it under New Business for discussion.

Councilmember Joe Wilchek seconded. Vote unanimous.

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved consent agenda. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous.

**1. Minute's Approval**

- a. September 12, 2019 – Regular Meeting
- b. September 12, 2019 – Public Hearing
- c. October 10, 2019 – Regular Meeting
- d. January 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- e. January 16, 2020 – Work Session
- f. January 21, 2020 – Work Session
- g. January 30, 2020 – Public Hearing
- h. January 30, 2020 – Called Meeting

2. 2020 Business License Approval  
One Main Automotive was moved to new business for discussion. All other business license listed were approved.
3. Surplus Item(s)
  - a. 2000 Ford Crown Victoria – Vin #2FAFP71W8YX131858
4. Financial Summary – January 2020
5. Walnut Grove Wastewater System Monthly Report – January 2020
6. Preston & Malcom Attorneys at Law Invoice
7. Code Enforcement Officer
8. Public Works Manager
9. Public Works Employee

**VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

- i. Public Comments – None

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Appointments

Councilmember Linda Pilgrim approved the appointments as presented.

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Mark Moore asked if there were any public comments. There was none.

- i. Deputy Clerk – Sonya R. Cox
- ii. Code Enforcement Officer – Craig Ellington
- iii. City Attorney – Mike Malcom
- iv. City Engineer – Precision Planning, Inc.
- v. Municipal Court Judge – Samuel M. Barth

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Pro-Tem Discussion

Councilmember Linda Pilgrim submitted her resignation as Mayor Tem due to personal reasons and recommended Stephanie Moncrief as Mayor Pro Tem. There were no other recommendations.

Councilmember Joe Wilchek approved the recommendation of Stephanie Moncrief as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. No discussion. Vote Unanimous.

2. Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement

Carl Morrow, Walton County EMA Director gave some background on the agreement.

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous. No public comments.

3. Service Delivery Strategy Amendment Resolution

Debra Smith, Allen Smith Consulting gave some background on the amended resolution. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous. No public comments.

4. Sewer Allocation – 25% commercial / 75% residential allocation

Mayor Moore recommended changing the sewer allocation from 50% commercial / 50% residential to 25% commercial / 75% residential. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim approved. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Vote unanimous.

Public comment –

Alan Barton – 472 Forest Cemetery Rd – Suggested taken into consideration the commercial property to benefit the citizens of the city. Why add more rooftops when you already have problems with roads and traffic. I would think instead of 25% commercial / 75% residential, you would consider there would be more for commercial.

5. Ordinance – Municipal Court Clerk (First Reading)

Mayor Mark Moore noted removing the duties of the municipal court clerk and making it a separate entity and appoint the deputy clerk as the municipal court clerk. Our city judge, Honorable Samuel M. Barth, highly recommends Sonya and I believe this is a good move for our city. Attorney Jessie Couch read the caption of the ordinance. First reading was approved.

6. Ordinance – Public Works (First Reading)

Mayor Mark Moore recommended eliminating the director of public works and creating a public works manager. Attorney Jessie Couch read the caption of the ordinance. First reading was approved.

7. Creation of Committees

Mayor Mark Moore recommended creating the following committees. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous. No discussion. No public comments.

- i. Planning and Zoning
- ii. Budget and Finance Committee
- iii. Public Works
- iv. Public Safety

8. Business License Renewal – One Main Automotive, LLC

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief recommend tabling until March Council meeting. There have been some complaints from citizens, would like to send code enforcement officer out to make sure the business is in compliance. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IX. CLERK'S REPORT**

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

## **X. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Sewer allocation:

From 50 / 50 to 25 / 75.

I recommended to the council and it was approved that our sewer allocation to be changed from 50% Commercial and 50% Residential to 25% Commercial and 75% residential. This will allow us to get The Enclaves on 138 back on track. This PUD (Planned Unit Development) project has been on hold due to the uncertainty of sewer allocations. We believe that this will be back on track and the building will continue. This will add an eventual 150 homes to our community. I know there's been some concern with traffic and that added students will be a burden to our schools but let me assure you that this will not be an impact. I have met with the Walton County School superintendent Nathan Franklin, he assured us that we have plenty of space in our school system. As far as traffic, I have yet to see an issue with traffic coming out of our subdivisions. If you live in one of our subdivisions, you'll know this is the case.

To give you an idea of what 25% or 12,500 gallons per day commercial will allow us:

Office: 200 – 300 GPD

Fast Food Restaurant: 500 – 750 GPD

Dine-In Restaurant (Longhorns, etc.): 1,250 GPD

Typical Strip Retail Center: 1,200 GPD

Small Grocery Store w/ Deli: 2,000 GPD

Large Grocery w attached Retail: 4,000 GPD

As you see, this will be a great start on our commercial expansion without having our city spend taxes for unnecessary sewer plant expansion. Also, once The Enclaves homes are built and sold, this will save our city over \$52,000 a year in sewer plant operations that our city has been paying for a non-productive sewer plant.

A PUD located at Corn Dogs:

There has been some posting about a massive PUD, (Planned Unit Development) located at the old Corn Dogs property. This is premature and if it does become a solid proposal, I guarantee this will be reviewed by our newly created planning and zoning committee.

Safety:

You may have noticed increased patrols on our streets. I met with Sheriff Joe Chapman, Major Scott Whisnant, and Captain Ty Vance, who is the head of the Walnut Grove Precinct of Walton County Sheriff's Department on the subject of Public Safety and Speeding on our streets. The Sheriff's department, as well as the Georgia State Patrol, are doing a fantastic job in keeping our citizens safe and addressing the speeding issues that are happening in our city. The City of Walnut Grove gives a big THANK YOU to Sheriff Joe Chapman, Captain Ty Vance, and the Walton County Sheriff's department!

Public Works Manager: Brian Pilgrim

Mr. Pilgrim comes to us with experience working as a past employee of the City of Walnut Grove public works department, so his experience with the workings of our City is a great asset. He is currently employed as a Supervisor for U-TEC and is willing to make a change as he is not only a local resident but grew up here and plans to retire here in Walnut Grove.

Public Works Employee: Keegan Ramsey

Mr. Ramsey is also a local resident of the City of Walnut Grove. He has experience working in Gwinnett County at the water department. He has a Class A CDL so he is certified to operate our Dump Trucks. I know he will be a great fit for our city.

Code Enforcement Officer: Craig Ellington

Mr. Ellington is a Nationally Registered Fire Inspector and has a military background with the United States Marine Corps. He has worked in the past for the City of Walnut Grove as our

Code Enforcement Officer and has a thorough knowledge of our codes. He will work with our residents on code infractions and bring offenses back into compliance. He will be a fine addition to our city.

#### Sidewalks

Sidewalks are complete and under budget by \$15,408.

#### Transparency:

I have implemented new policies that will ensure complete transparency of the City of Walnut Grove. We now post agenda packets along with our agendas. This will give the citizens of Walnut Grove information including financials, minutes, and agenda items. The first one posted is well over 70 pages. We also took advantage of the Super Bowl TV prices and added a TV to our Municipal building to be used during our City Council meetings. Our Facebook Pages are now current. Get current information there as well as our website. We're going to turn the grade that the Walton Tribune gave our old city government leaders from a C to an A+.

I was able to register: [www.CityofWalnutGrove.com](http://www.CityofWalnutGrove.com) this will be much easier to remember, and it matches the City of Walnut Grove name and Facebook page. We are in the process of moving our current website and email addresses over to this new domain. Give it a try!

Thank you for your continued support.

Maxine McClanahan suggested not putting the complete business license application information online or redacting information. There was a non-listed number that was listed for the public to see.

Someone asked if all business paid the same amount for their business license. The answer is yes all business pay the same amount of \$100.

Mayor Mark Moore introduce Captain Ty Vance.

#### **XI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

None

#### **XII. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Joe Wilchek:** Excited about the new employees. Thanked Captain Vance. Anybody who would like to contact us is more than welcome to email any of us with questions or concerns.

**Linda Pilgrim:** Happy to see everyone at the meeting.

**Stephanie Moncrief:** Agree with Councilmember Joe Wilchek. If anyone needs us or has questions, concerns or suggestions, please reach out to us.

Mayor Mark Moore – public service announcement. City Hall is very dark and would recommend anyone to go by and look at the lighting at City Hall.

#### **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION, *if needed***

**XIV. ADJOURN**

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief made a motion to adjourn, Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded the motion, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Approved by Mayor and Council this \_\_\_\_ day of April 2020.

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Mayor Steven Mark Moore

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Tangee B. Puckett, City Clerk