

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020  
COUNCIL MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE  
7:00 P.M.**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark Moore.

**II. INVOCATION**

Invocation given by Mayor Mark Moore

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All participated in the pledge of allegiance.

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Councilmember Linda Pilgrim approved. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

**V. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief requested moving the 2020 Business/Alcohol License under new business for discussion. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous.

Councilmember Linda Pilgrim approved consent agenda with the adjustments.

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Vote unanimous.

1. Minute's Approval

- a. April 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- b. April 23, 2020 – Work Session (Move to June Meeting)
- c. May 7, 2020 – Work Session

2. 2020 Business License Approval – move under new business for discussion

3. Financial Summary – April 2020

4. Invoices
  - a. Precision Planning
  - b. Preston & Malcom Attorneys at Law
  - c. Powell & Edwards Attorneys at Law
  - d. Lakeview Environmental, LLC (Sewer)

**VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

- i. Public Comments – None

**VII. PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Dial/Sewer Property Easement Revision

Attorney Jesse Couch explained Attorney Mike Malcom and another attorney in the office were working on this and was moving along accordingly.

2. Island Properties within the City of Walnut Grove

Attorney Jesse Couch gave an update and noted there are some properties within the City that are not inside the City limits and his office is preparing the necessary paper to work, applications that the Mayor and Council intend to annex into the City. We hope to have this completed for the June meeting.

Mayor Mark Moore asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief asked what is the timeline for this and the process and what is the outcome? Is it just taking the properties into the City limits and do the owners have a time frame to respond to our letter?

Attorney Jesse Couch the statute requires the council address and vote to approve or deny the annexation within 30 days of giving owners notice. Unlike a lot of deadlines/timeframes, this is based on our requirement such as putting owners on notice that the city is annexing properties that are unincorporated islands in the city and give them the date of the public hearing and allow them to speak. If you do vote to approve, then there will be several steps to move forward.

Councilmember Linda Pilgrim asked if the homeowners of those properties not inside the city limits been notified. Mayor Mark Moore, as Attorney Couch stated we will be sending letters to them.

Attorney Couch this is based on when the Council approval to give us the go ahead with the annexations.

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief - your waiting on the approval of the Council to move forward with the annexation of these properties.

Attorney Couch-it does not require a formal motion or resolution to proceed, but once we confirm when the council will vote on this is when we will proceed with notifying the property owners.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Grove Wine & Spirits Alcohol/Business License

Mayor Mark Moore noted this application is for the new owner and asked if there was any discussion on this application. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief asked if he has gotten back to us with his sales tax id number. City Clerk Tangee Puckett noted it has

been applied for his license would not be issued until this is completed. Mayor Mark Moore asked Attorney Couch for his opinion. Attorney Couch noted it was acceptable to approve the license without the sales tax number as the application appeared to be completed correctly.

Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief approved the application pending the status of their sales tax number. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. Unique Air Solutions Business License Renewal

Mayor Mark Moore asked if there were any questions in regard to this business license renewal application. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief noted she had spoken to City Clerk Tangee Puckett in regard to the application and she was going to contact the applicant. The applicant is Matthew Moore and the state license is listed under another individuals name and would like clarification. City Clerk Tangee Puckett explained she had spoken to Mr. Moore and he does work for this company under the individual who holds the state license. Mayor Mark Moore asked the City Attorney if this was acceptable. Attorney Couch explained any issue with him operating a HVAC business would fall under the state guidelines and would be okay to approve his license as presented.

Councilmember Linda Pilgrim approved the application as presented. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Vote unanimous.

3. Call for a Special Election

Mayor Mark Moore explained Councilmember Joe Wilchek resigned for personal reasons and his seat is available. Qualifying will take place in August. Attorney Couch read the resolution. City Clerk noted there was a typo with the location address, and it will be corrected. Attorney Couch noted the resolution still stands as read.

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

4. Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Mark Moore noted we were a little late with the proclamation reading this year. Mayor Mark Moore read the proclamation.

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

**X. CLERK'S REPORT**

We have opened City Hall to the public since Covid-19 pandemic with safety measures.

**XI. MAYOR'S REPORT**

To give everyone an update, the property owner located at 2949 Hwy. 81 was sent a certified letter in reference to the garbage and junk cars in the yard. They have 15 days to comply or risk receiving a citation. Also, the person running the car lot/salvage business in Papa John's parking lot has until June to vacate due to our city ordinance does not allow for this type of business in this location.

On a positive note, for Arbor Day, I am promoting planting a tree in June. On Walnut Grove Parkway, a group of children planted a weeping willow and unfortunately it died, so we would like to replace it. We have had several suggestions on what type of tree to plant, but

we would like to put this on our Facebook page and let the citizens vote. One suggestion was a walnut tree, which would help promote the cities name.

City Hall is now open following the CDC guidelines and the front lobby is sealed off to help protect staff.

We are moving forward with accepting sanitation payments online. We hope to have this up and running by the end of June.

Public Works has done a great job beautifying city hall and the park. They also rescued old equipment that was neglected and put back in use.

## **XII. DISCUSSION ITEM**

Kim Moore – does the Arbor Day recognition coincide with the Tree City Proclamation?  
Mayor answered yes.

Dana >>>> with the library noted starting on May 26<sup>th</sup> the library would be open for curbside pick-up only with appointment. The hours were Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 2pm and Thursday 3pm to 7pm. She is not sure when they will open to the public. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief asked were the guidelines the same for all libraries in Walton County. Dana-yes. She also asked if a citizen wanted to order some books, they would call the library. Dana-yes, they will call or go online. She asked if the summer programs have been cancelled. Dana- all summer reading programs will be held online. We will have 2 programs a week all summer, Tuesday and Thursday at 10am.

Don Cannon – commend the Mayor and Council on a job well done during these trying times.

Mayor Mark Moore wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming election on June 9<sup>th</sup> and we will swear in the new councilmember at our regular council meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. We will hold a budget work session closer to the end of the month. We will also hold budget public hearings at the municipal building, under the CDC guidelines next month.

## **XIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Linda Pilgrim:** Would like to recognize all the graduates and the mother; s who had to homeschool their children and to all the teachers.

**Stephanie Moncrief:** Nothing new to add, looking forward to seeing everyone in person. My family is well, and I hope everyone else's is. Would like to thank all the teachers in Walnut Grove who went over and beyond to help the children learn from home.

**City Clerk Tangee Puckett:** Please keep Councilmember Linda Pilgrim's mom in your prayers, she is not doing well.

## **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - none**

**XV. ADJOURN**

Councilmember Linda Pilgrim made a motion to adjourn, Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded the motion, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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

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Mayor Steven Mark Moore

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Tangee B. Puckett, City Clerk