

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 1021 PARK ST.  
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020  
COUNCIL MEETING  
7:00 P.M.**

Present at Meeting:

Mayor Steven Mark Moore  
Stephanie Moncrief  
Linda Pilgrim  
Mary Hall  
Mike Malcom, City Attorney  
Jesse Couch, City Attorney

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark Moore at 7:00pm.

**II. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Councilmember Mary Hall approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

**III. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Mary Hall approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Mayor asked if there was any discussion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief requested removing the following business license applications: One Main Automotive, Residential Marketing Services, Inc. and Albright Refinishing for discussion under new business. Councilmember Mary Hall revised her motion to include the removal of the business license as noted under new business for discussion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

1. Minute's Approval

- a. June 11, 2020 – Public Hearing (Budget)
- b. June 11, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- c. June 18, 2020 – Public Hearing (Budget)
- d. June 25, 2020 – Public Hearing (Budget)
- e. June 25, 2020 – Called Meeting
- f. June 25, 2020 – Executive Session

2. 2020 Business License Approval

3. Financial Summary – June 2020

4. Invoices

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

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

- i. Public Comments – None

**V. PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Dial/Sewer Property Easement Revision

Attorney Mike Malcom noted this was done, it has been signed and recorded and matches and the new description matches what shows on the ground.

Councilmember Mary Hall asked for some clarification. Attorney Mike Malcom explained this was an ingress/egress easement entered into with Mr. Dial (property owner) and the City when the property was purchased for the sewer plant.

2. Island Properties within the City of Walnut Grove

Attorney Jesse Couch noted he had emailed a detailed memo earlier this week and would be happy to answer any questions. The memo gives explanation on how to accomplish the goal. Mayor Moore recommended moving this item to a work session to discuss further with the City's Engineer and City Attorney.

Councilmember Mary Hall made a motion to move this item to the next work session for further discussion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2020 Business License Approval

- i. Residential Marketing Services, Inc.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Mary Hall approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Discussion – Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief noted the application was not completed in its entirety and does not feel comfortable approving the application. Councilmember Mary Hall revised her motion and moved to table the application to discuss at the next work session. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous.

- ii. One Main Automotive

Mayor Moore asked for a motion. Councilmember Mary Hall approved. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Discussion – this is the same company who previously applied for a business license and due to noncompliance zoning issues, they could not be granted their license. They still opened shop after being notified of the zoning issue and were given until the end of June to vacate the property. There are still vehicles at this location and would recommend tabling until the next work session for further discussion. Mayor Moore noted the business has been operating without a business license for the last six months. Councilmember Mary Hall revised her motion and moved to table the application to discuss at the next work session. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded. Vote unanimous.

iii. Albright Refinishing

Mayor Moore explained this business is a body shop and is not in compliance with the City's Downtown Overlay District and has been operating without a business license for the past six months. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim moved to table the business license application until work session for further discussion. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. Ordinance – Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Planning Commission) – First Reading  
Attorney Jesse Couch read the ordinance for the first reading.

3. Recognition of Basil Estelle Usher

Brandon Hardison recognized Basil Estelle Usher as one of Walnut Groves own daughters, who went on to become a trailblazer in Atlanta and the State of Georgia's halls of history. Atlanta has a middle school named after her in her honor and the Georgia Women of Achievement has enshrined into its laurels.

She was a student and friend of W.E.B. DuBois, taught Sunday School to Atlanta's first black Mayor, Maynard Jackson. She was an American educator known for her work in the Atlanta Public Schools. As a director of education for African American children in the district prior to integration, she was the first African American to have an office at Atlanta City Hall. She founded the first Girl Scout troop for African American girls in Atlanta in 1943.

There are many more outstanding things she did with her life which was focused around children but yet she was born and raised in Walnut Grove and there is no mention of her in our community. I would like to honor one of our own. Since she was an education, I would love to see something at the elementary and high school. I would create a City of Walnut Grove Award. Have the students pick a female that holds some of the same value as Ms. Usher and have them do a speech and invite the media. I work for Jim Ellis and we would be honored to help sponsor a program like this.

Mayor Moore asked the council if they had any questions. Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief noted her first question was, what are we doing, is this a new program, is this something about recognition. I am so glad to hear you say you are interested in working with the City and the schools to create a program where we recognize and celebrate the people from this City who have gone on to accomplish great things. We need to get a committee together to determine who qualifies, because we need to have high standards, we need to have some structure. It is important to recognize Ms. Usher. If you are interested in working with the City instead of just handing it off, I know this could be a great program. Councilmember Mary Hall recommended doing a monument for people who have done great things, like Ms. Usher.

**VIII. CLERK'S REPORT**

City Clerk gave an update – 1 citation written by code enforcement, 7 citations from State Patrol, 0 pavilion rentals and 12 ballpark rentals.

**IX. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Code Enforcement has written 19 notice of violations. 10 – grass needs cutting, 2 – cars must be tagged/insured and 2 – businesses operating without business license. The budget has been approved. With the budget approval, the residents will have their trash and light bill paid by the City. We moved money from the last fiscal year that was not used to use in this year's budget. Some of our upcoming projects are paving of Magnolia Springs subdivision, repair of drainage on Park Street, round-about in Emerald Cove and resurfacing of the tennis and basketball court. The total for all projects is around \$250,000. Citizen voted to have a walnut tree to replace the broken magnolia tree at the round about on Walnut Grove Parkway. We won't be able to plant it until around fall.

**X. DISCUSSION ITEM**

Update from the Council on Committees

- 1) Downtown Development Committee – Councilmember Stephanie Moncrief created a form/application. Had some recommendations from citizens. There will be a vetting process. The form/application will be on the website, so anyone interested can complete the form/application and then there will be a review process as well as a background check. After interviews, it will then come before the Mayor and Council for recommendations. We will discuss it further at a work session. If you know someone interested, let me know. Mayor Moore asked the City Attorney to provide the requirements to be on the Downtown Development requirements.
- 2) Citizen Involvement Committee – Councilmember Linda Pilgrim as of now we have one member and we want to come up with a mission statement and focus on having events in the City. And recognizing people and involving the citizens in conversations about Government. To encourage fellowship between citizens and City Government. One event at this time, Craft Show/Farmers Market, Kim Moore is heading up this event and it starts this Saturday from 10am to 4pm. It will be the second Saturday of every month until October.

The Grove Update

Mayor Moore noted this is a PUD off of Hwy. 81. The applicant has asked to postpone this.

Patching of Emerald Cove

Mayor Moore explained we are converting a roundabout at the end of Emerald Cove into a cul-de-sac. It should be finished by tomorrow.

**XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mary Hall:** Excited to serve the citizens of Walnut Grove. I have been involved for a long time; I have lived here since 2002. It's an honor to serve with some hard-working individuals.

**Linda Pilgrim:** Welcome Mary Hall on board, she is a hard worker and proud to serve with her.

**Stephanie Moncrief:** thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Hardison for recognizing Ms. Usher.

Mayor Moore asked the public if they had any questions or concerns. There were none.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - none**

**XIII. ADJOURN**

Councilmember Mary Hall made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Linda Pilgrim seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Steven Mark Moore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tangee B. Puckett, City Clerk