CITY OF WALNUT GROVE

January 20, 2022

7:00 PM

1021 PARK STREET MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Mayor Mark Moore
Jon Dial
Stephanie Moncrief
Linda Pilgrim
Tony Powell
Keegan Ramsey

Mayor and Council

Council Meeting Minutes

I.   CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Mark Moore

II.   INVOCATION – Tony Powell

III.   PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All participated

IV.   AGENDA APPROVAL – Council member Stephanie Moncrief made motion. Council member Jon Dial seconded. Passed unanimously.

V.   CONSENT AGENDA – Council member Stephanie Moncrief made motion. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimously

1. December 9th Meeting Minutes
2. Invoice over $5000
3. Financials
4. Loganville Service Delivery Resolution

VI.   COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Community Involvement Committee – Linda Pilgrim

Council member Linda Pilgrim announced the first meeting of the year is scheduled for February 8th. Council member Pilgrim also mentioned they are looking for new members and the city park market will return April 9th.

2. Parks and Recreation/Public Works – Jon Dial

Council member Jon Dial announced they will be holding a meeting next month. Council member Dial also reported that the public works department was almost complete with the move to the new building.

3. Education Involvement Committee – Stephanie Moncrief

Council member Stephanie Moncrief reported that principal Lindsey Allen will be making a presentation at the next council meeting about all the developments the Walnut Grove High School has in store for the upcoming year. Council member Moncrief also reported the school board was researching creating a fourth cluster for the Walton County School District.

VII.   PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – Mayor Moore reported that due to a conflict Don Cannon was

unable to attend but he would like to thank the commission for all their hard work.

VIII. WALNUT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT – Postponed

IX.   OLD BUSINESS

X.   NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointments – Council member Linda Pilgrim made motion to approve as a group. Council member Jon Dial seconded. Passed unanimously.

i. City Clerk – Keegan Ramsey

ii. Deputy Clerk – Sonya Cox

iii. Code Enforcement Officer – Craig Ellington

iv. Zoning Administrator – Craig Ellington

v. City Attorney – Tony Powell

vi. City Engineer – Precision Planning

vii. Municipal Court Judge – Samuel M. Barth

a. **Library Board of Trustees – Council member Linda Pilgrim made motion to approve. Council member Stephanie Moncrief seconded. Passed unanimously.**

   i. Don Cannon
   ii. Erica Miles
   iii. Sarah Tuchscherer

2. **Service Agreement –** Mayor Moore announced moving the responsibility of building inspections and MS4 reports from Precision Planning to Bureau Veritas North America. Mayor Moore noted they are highly qualified for assignment. **Council member Jon Dial made motion to approve. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimously.**

3. **Moratorium –** Mayor Moore announced a moratorium on new zoning for the downtown overlay for six months or until a master plan is in place. Council member Stephanie Moncrief asked if the moratorium can be extended if necessary. Tony Powell answered it can be extended if a reason and appropriate timeframe is given. Mayor Moore discussed plans to create an additional overlapping overlay to create a downtown district. Mayor Moore also made a presentation with a concept layout for the downtown district. Mayor Moore noted the city saved tens of thousands of dollars by having the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission assist with the concept and the Atlanta Regional Commission supplying the demographics information. Mayor Moore noted that this is just a starting point in the design and he expects modifications to be made throughout the process. Mayor Moore explained that the zoning inside the grids of the plan were only concepts to show possible layouts. Mayor Moore showed some concept pictures of green space and parks that could be included in the design as well. **Council member Stephanie Moncrief made a motion to approve the moratorium. Council member Jon Dial seconded. Passed unanimously.**

4. **Special Election Date Modification –** Mayor Moore explained the benefits of moving the special election to fill the vacant city council member seat to coincide with the primary election. Mayor Moore cited limited labor due to Covid-19. City attorney Tony Powell explained there are limited times that special elections can be held and also a significant amount of savings the city would receive by coinciding with the primary election date of May 24th. Tony Powell also stated the dates for qualifying would be April 19th 2022 starting at 8:30am and close on April 22nd at 4:30. Tony Powell noted although the election could be held in March it is not mandated to be done as soon as possible and the city would save a considerable amount of money this way. Mayor Moore stated the city would be saving almost $7000 by making this modification. **Council member Stephanie Moncrief made a motion to approve the resolution. Council member Jon Dial seconded. Passed unanimously.**

XI. **REPORTS**

1. **Public Works Report –** Brian Pilgrim reported that all the Christmas decorations have been taken down and stored until next season. Mayor Moore added that the lumber inside the city hall outbuilding has been removed and the building is usable for storage after many years. Brian Pilgrim commented they refurbished donated shelving inside the outbuilding and installed them inside the new public work building. Brian reported that public works cleaned up fallen trees and storm debris inside the city park as well as installed silt fencing along Park St to help with water erosion.

2. **Clerk's Report –** City clerk Keegan Ramsey reported the notices of violation issued for the month as well as the balances of the city bank accounts.

3. **Mayor's Report –** Mayor Moore reported that the public works department repaired a backhoe that has been unused for years and used it to clean out a tail ditch along Park St. Mayor Moore spoke about shipping delays for parts needed to repair the HVAC system in the city library. Mayor Moore said he gave the company authorization to ship them as fast as possible but due to trucking shortages the parts still have not arrived. Mayor Moore reported that the phase 2 sewer expansion project was still on track and ground breaking should start in the spring after all the designs and licenses were approved.

XII. **TOWN HALL DISCUSSION –** Council member Stephanie Moncrief commented she wasn't aware that the SPLOST account did not have enough to cover the cost of repaving Emerald Cove. Mayor Moore explained that due to extra unexpected costs on the streambank stabilization and Emerald Cove cross drain projects adjustments need to be made. William Coleman made a comment asking if the moratorium included the entire city or just the downtown district. Mayor Moore responded that it affected everything inside the downtown district boundaries. Erica Miles made a comment asking if the downtown development authority would still be involved in creating the master plan for the downtown district. Mayor Moore responded the master plan would be developed as a group with planning and zoning, city council and the downtown development authority.

XIII. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

XIV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council member Jon Dial made motion to go into executive session. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimously. Council member Jon Dial made motion to return from executive session. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimously.**

XV. **ADJOURN – Council member Jon Dial made motion to adjourn. Council member Linda Pilgrim seconded. Passed unanimously.**