



CITY OF WALNUT GROVE
August 1st, 2023
1021 PARK STREET MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Work Session Meeting Minutes

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor - Mark Moore
Mayor Pro Tem - Stephanie Moncrief
Council Members-
Linda Pilgrim
Erica Miles

STAFF PRESENT:

City Clerk – Kimberly Whitlow
Public Works - Brian Pilgrim
City Attorney - Tony Powell
Asst. City Attorney- Jay Crowley
P&Z Administrator- Joe Walter

OTHERS PRESENT: David Wright, Robert Sligh, Bobby Bullard

I. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Mark Moore

II. INVOCATION - Tony Powell

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - All Participated

IV. ROLL CALL - Everyone Present

V. AGENDA APPROVAL – Linda Pilgrim made a motion to approve the agenda. Erica Miles seconded. Stephanie asked to add on the sewer tap. Linda Pilgrim motioned to amend the agenda to add the taps and Stephanie Moncrief second. Motion to approve agenda by Stephanie Moncrief. Seconded by Erica Miles. All in favor.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. REZONING APPLICATION FOR FORREST GLENN- Joe Walter explained the purpose of the rezoning application. Erica asked why this was still on the agenda because they voted to remove it. Joe explained that it was advertised for a hearing. Tony Powell said this needs to go back to Planning and Zoning. Mayor Moore says he believes this needs to move forward and corrected and Linda Pilgrim agreed. Erica Miles explained that they killed the issue and Stephanie seconded it in the last meeting. Tony Powell said that it was voted to be removed at the last meeting and his recommendation is to stop the voting on this now and send it back to Planning and Zoning. The council took a 10-minute break after this discussion.

- 2. EMERALD COVE CORRECTIVE PAVING – REVIEW BIDS-** Stephanie Moncrief expressed her frustration on the number of qualified bids because the City did not send out what they were supposed to send out. Stephanie mentioned we need help with getting the word and the RFP out there. Mayor Moore mentioned he has yet to receive a formal complaint about the paving of Emerald Cove. Stephanie Moncrief said that a petition was brought to the City at a meeting with over 45 signatures. Mayor Moore said he received a presentation and packet but has never received a petition or formal complaint. Linda Pilgrim seconded that she did not see the petition either. Erica Miles stated she would like to LNCO further about their bid. Stephanie would like to meet with LNCO and Falcon's for further discussion. Tony Powell suggested rejection of all bids and negotiating services with engineers.
- 3. CASE # #WGRZ-23-02: Kippy Clark C/O J. Alexander Brock, Applicant; William Paul Jones, Jr And Toby Jones, Owners Parcels #Wg010024 and Wg10025—1071/0 Walnut Grove Parkway Request to Rezone 9.4 Acres From AG to Pud for a mixed-use development – Traffic study –** Bobby Bullard did a presentation of the Walnut Grove Town Center. David Wright presented the traffic study. Data was collected June 20th, 2023 to determine the impact of the development. The intersection of 81/Walnut Grove Parkway will not need traffic lights as of yet. The same situation is at 138/Walnut Grove Parkway. Right turn lanes are recommended at both intersections. As the area grows there will have to be improvement to the intersections but as of right now there is no need for traffic lights.
- 4. Walnut Grove Master Plan – Hall Consulting-** It has been challenging to get everyone in the same room. Stephanie suggested we have it at the municipal building. Mayor Moore says the municipal building can't accommodate. Mayor Moore says that Hall Consulting has not officially presented what they have to offer to the council. Joe Walter suggests we have Mrs. Hall come to a council meeting to answer some of the councils' questions. Kimberly is going to try to get in touch with Mrs. Hall to come to a work session to present.
- 5. City Clerk Official Record Keeper—**No discussion
- 6. Gas Station Exterior Review—**Joe stated that they got the elevations sent over to council for review. Joe suggests we add it to our next council meeting. Erica Miles thinks the exterior looks great. Stephanie Moncrief asked about the gas pumps in the back and Joe confirms there will be pumps in the back. The taps have not been purchased for the gas station as of yet. The tap fee will be paid for when this item gets improved. Needs to be placed on the August 10th agenda.
- 7. Ethic Ordinance—**This was the second reading of the ordinance. Mayor Moore questioned the \$5000 stipulation in this ordinance and does not agree with it being so high. Mayor Moore thinks a nepotism clause needs to be included and a clause should be added to prohibit council members from doing business with building/developers for a set number of years. Tony Powell further explains the \$5000 and ethic provision. The council agrees they will keep it as is.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. MILAGE RATE-** Mayor Moore presented the milage rate which shows a roll back rate from the state. The milage rate increase is 0.00 for this year.
- 2. Nuisance Ordinance—**This is to update the City's current ordinance. Mayor Moore has not had time to review this. Mayor Moore asked to table this until the next work session.
- 3. COUNCIL PROCEDURE ACT CONCERNING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AND MEETING RULES-** The Mayor thinks some of the items in this are contradictory. The council agrees that we already do our meetings this way and that this ordinance makes sense. Mayor Moore inquires about the advertisement times listed in this ordinance and the council agrees that we will keep it on Friday 1:00. Stephanie thinks keeping the minutes word for word is unnecessary and we should summarize the minutes like other cities/counties do. Mayor Moore does not agree and believes we should continue to write them out word for word. Mayor Moore explains this is a Mayor calls and he should make the decision on the minutes. He said he wants to remain completely transparent and continue to do the minutes word for word. Stephanie said that the minutes are not word for word. Erica Miles also Stephanie Moncrief agree that all the facts are not in the minutes. Erica and Stephanie believe we should keep the recordings of the minutes. Mayor Moore says we do not have the capability right now. The city clerk shall provide a summary of the minutes within 2 weeks of the recorded meeting and this was agreed upon. Mayor Moore states that we should give the council a full 5 days to review the agendas and the agenda packets.
- 4. CODE ENFORCEMENT EFFECTIVENESS-** Stephanie Moncrief explains she had received concerning emails from citizens and has reviewed the code enforcement report and inquired about who is overseeing our current code enforcement officer, Ramon. She is concerned that the current company we are using for our code enforcement is not being effective. Mayor Moore says the City has a friendly city policy. A friendly city policy states that a violation is reported to the city and dealt with, within 10 business days. Mayor Moore believes the City should consider Marshall to take care of our code enforcement. Stephanie Moncrief says that Walton County would be willing to make an agreement with us to help us with our code enforcement. Mayor Moore does not want to use Walton County for assistance. Stephanie Moncrief is hopefully the nuisance ordinance will help us with our code enforcement issues.

5. QUALIFICATION DATES ANNOUNCED- August 21st, 2023- August 23rd, 2023 9:30am-4pm. The clerk, Kimberly Whitlow, is now a qualified elections officer. The council talked about early voting and agreed to keep it at the municipal meeting and move around work sessions/council meetings as needed.

VII. ADJOURN

Kimberly Whitlow, City Clerk DATE

Steven Mark Moore, Mayor DATE

Tony Powell, City Attorney DATE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Stephanie Moncrief DATE

Linda Pilgrim DATE

Erica Miles DATE