



City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020
Walthourville Police Department @ 6:00 PM

- I. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call was taken by City Clerk, Shana T. Moss with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
Councilman James Hendry

Mayor Pro-Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilwoman Sarah B. Hayes
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

City Attorney Luke Moses was present.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Councilman Anderson.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance: was recited in unison.
- V. Presentations: There were none.
- VI. Adoption of the Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda with amending to include Executive Session for personnel was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.
- VII. Adoption of the City Council Minutes from the June 23, 2020 meeting. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.
- VIII. Agenda Items:
Old Business: None
New Business:

1. LCPC Ms. Chonte' Wright
Home based business License for Ve-Lavour located at 195 Fletcher Road. The applicant is Cable Wray. *This item was requested to be removed from the agenda, per LCPC due to incomplete paperwork. This item will be presented at a later date.*

2. LCPC Ms. Chonte' Wright
Home based Business License for Uncle Bo's Lawn Care Service located at 1715 Shaw Road. The Applicant is Hubert Smiley. Due to COVID-19, LCPC's Mr. Nirav Gandhi was excused. Ms. Wright stated there would be no customers coming to the home. No signs may be placed on the property indicating it is a business, but a sign may be placed on the vehicle. Equipment will not be visible from the outside and it must be kept in a shed or garage. All work will be done off the premises. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

3. Office of the Mayor

City Attorney, Luke R. Moses

Proposed Ordinance Mandating Mask in the City of Walthourville due to COVID-19. Attorney Mosley stated this ordinance was modeled after the City of Hinesville. This mandates mask to be worn by anyone and especially in groups of five or more anywhere in the city. There are exceptions which are during physical activities (running, walking jogging) and inside a restaurant eating. This ordinance is not applicable to anyone 10 years of age and younger. This type of ordinance was approved in Savannah, Atlanta, Athens and Hinesville. Georgia's Governor Brian Kemp stated they are unenforceable because no city ordinance can be more restrictive or more relaxed than the governor's. Earlier today (July 14th) the governor filed suit against Atlanta Mayor, Keisha Lance-Bottoms and the members of City Council regarding the mask ordinance. The proposed mask ordinance has a fine of \$1,000. Councilman Hendry and Councilwoman Hayes, stated, " \$1,000 fine is too steep for Walthourville." Councilwoman Kelly stated she was in support of the fine because she feels that would make people wear the mask. Councilman Anderson stated would officers instantly begin imposing fines. Attorney Moses said, "most time the officers will offer the person a mask and if they don't wear it a ticket could be given with a fine." Attorney Moses further stated the CDC Director said if everyone would wear a mask we could beat this virus. The motion to approve the mask ordinance with the \$1,000 fine was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried.

Opposed: Councilwoman Hayes and Councilman Hendry

4. Office of the Mayor

Attorney Luke R. Moses

Proposed Stipend for Mayor Larry D. Baker. Stated there is \$34,000 in the 2020 Budget for a new vehicle. Mayor Bake doesn't want to spend the money for a new vehicles. The city will research a way to provide the mayor with transportation and still save the city money. The \$36,000 was set aside during the previous (Pray) administration. The previous mayors have gotten vehicles. Attorney Moses stated he would have more information to present at the Mayor and Council's Financial Workshop on July 22nd and July 23rd, 2020. Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette asked, "In the interim, how can the mayor's mileage be tracked." Attorney Moses stated he was already logging his mileage. He emphasized for council to remember a sitting council cannot take action and increase pay it would have to be done during the next election. If they took action it would not be effective until January 20204. No action was taken.

5. Economic Development

Councilwoman Sarah B. Hayes

Minority Chamber of Coastal Georgia Small Business Week Proclamation. Introduced Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber's Executive Director, Mrs. Sabrina Newby who spoke about small businesses and their impact in a city. She asked council if they knew the number of small businesses that are operational in the city. She said this is not a question that anyone usually answers. She stated that small businesses are hurting and her role with the Minority Chamber is to help shine a light on awareness and assisting in helping them. She asked Mayor and Council to approve a Proclamation designating Minority Small Business Week in the City to coincide with the Juneteenth celebration. This Proclamation will be effective for June 2021. The motion to approve the proclamation was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

6. Economic Development

Councilman Sarah B. Hayes

Minority Chamber of Coastal Georgia Organic Food Source Opportunities. Executive Director, Mrs. Sabrina Newby stated she was shocked when she went to a local market and bell pepper was \$3.52 per pound. She began going back to the basics and began exploring options to plant a garden. She stated she talked to investors and stakeholders to begin growing organic foods so people can buy vegetables from the market. The Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber was gifted with land in Brunswick, GA to begin planting a community garden. She wanted Mayor and Council to be aware

of this initiative and she thought it would be a beneficial partnership between the City of Walthourville and the Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber. She asked them to begin thinking about a space or area of land that could be utilized in the city. This was an informational item only, no vote was taken.

IX. Council Updates:

Fire Department.

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Chief Anthony Burn's report was read by Councilman Anderson.

Economic Development

Councilwoman Sarah B. Hayes

She spoke about the land the city owns in Long County and would like to explore the option of having it annexed into the city instead of selling it. Mayor Baker and Councilmen Hendry stated the city had tried before and was unsuccessful. Attorney Moses stated the litigation would be almost impossible due to being in a different county and it would have to be approved by the state legislature. Also, she reported she went and spoke to Mr. James Rodgers, President of the Hospital Authority Board about the representative from the city, Daisy S. Pray. Mr. Rodgers informed her this appointment was not tied to the city and is not designated by the city. Citizens can apply to be on these boards, her appointment is up in November. She further reported she spoke with Mr. Jimmie Martin, Liberty County Parks and Recreation Director and no one from the City of Walthourville had inquired about changing Hillery Park Hours. To change the park hours the city would have to meet with the Recreation Board and then with the Liberty County Board of Commissioners.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Stated public works is picking up litter, trash and bulk trash. The garbage truck will hopefully be arriving on July 24th, 2020.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Directed her presentation to a document regarding the Vandiver Lift Station. In March of this year, one pump was installed by Mr. Paul Krebs at Vandiver with an old pump remaining. The old pump has malfunctioned and the new pump is having to pump additionally hard. The cost associated with repairs and or replacement are:

Old Pump Price (Repair)

\$10,490.00

1 year warranty

2-3 weeks to obtain the parts

Grand Total: \$10,490.00

New Pump Price

\$10,090.00

**5 year pro-rated warranty
can be here this week.**

\$1025.00 to install

Grand Total: \$11,115.00

Difference: \$625.00

The motion to purchase a new pump with Paul Krebs providing the work (Paul Krebs conducted the work on the replacement pump) was made by Councilman Anderson and the second was provided by Councilwoman Hayes.

Vote: 4-1 Motion Carried.

Opposed: Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette

Reported the fence at Johnnie Frasier Park has been repaired. She have quotes for the sanitization station, she would like to recommend the station with the handi wipes. This is a standup station with sanitizer. The highest cost is \$350.00 and the lowest cost for the station is \$282.00. She will provide the quotes to City Hall. Also, she has been calling citizens since June 22nd about the Census. She has been getting a lot of feedback. The city's response rate as of this meeting is 37.9%.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Reported the city is safe. There has been no robberies nor burglaries. He asked Police Jerry Blash to discuss ATV (All Terrain Vehicles). Chief Blash stated it has been illegal since 1975 to drive ATV's on a roadway. Both three and four wheelers are prohibited from riding on the roads in Walthourville. The city cannot place speed bumps in subdivisions because this is considered private property.

Mayor's Corner

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Informed everyone about the Mayor and Council's Financial Workshop that is scheduled for July 22nd and July 23rd. July 22nd is from 9:00 am-4:00 pm and July 23rd is from 9:00 am-1:00pm at the Police Department. Finance Director, Chaundra Cox stated she has received everyone's request that submitted one and she will have the packets compiled by July 16th, 2020. Mrs. Cox will prepare digital (USB) for Councilwomen Hayes and Kelly. Everyone else will have paper packets with the exception of Ms. Moss and Ms. Wright.

- X. Executive Session: At 7:01 pm a motion to enter Executive Session for personnel was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.

At 7:37 pm a motion to re-enter into Open Session was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

- XI. Adjournment:

At 7:37 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor

CITY OF WALTHOURVILLE
Model Policy Requiring Face Coverings in City Buildings

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, an infectious virus known to cause the respiratory disease “COVID-19” can spread from person to person, and can result in no symptoms, minor symptoms, or serious illness causing permanent organ damage and death; and

WHEREAS, individuals age 65 or over or living with certain medical conditions identified by the CDC (members of Vulnerable Populations) and members of other populations identified by the CDC (“Other Populations at Risk”) are at risk of severe and lasting harm to health or death from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 also has been reported to cause severe and permanent damage to some children; and

WHEREAS, there is no vaccine or approved treatment for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia, and renewed this declaration on April 8, 2020 and again on April 30, 2020, so that it will remain in effect at least through June 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, over 53,249 Georgians have tested positive for the novel coronavirus as of June 9, 2020, and over 2,285 Georgians have died from COVID-19¹; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has noted that COVID-19 spreads very easily and sustainably when an infected person (who may have no symptoms at all, or minor symptoms) talks, sneezes, or coughs in close proximity with others (within six feet); and

WHEREAS, one Georgia community experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 due in part to an infected person being present in a public building without face coverings, with the result being the infection of many persons and the death of a judge and other individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, through Executive Orders 04.30.20.01, 05.12.20.02, and 05.28.20.01 recognized the need to take extra precautions to protect certain vulnerable populations who meet the criteria for higher risk of severe illness as defined by the CDC and identified in Section III of the Governor’s Executive Order 05.12.20.02 (“Vulnerable Populations”); and

WHEREAS, Executive Orders 04.30.20.01, 05.12.20.02, and 05.28.20.01 require Vulnerable Populations to continue to shelter in place, with exceptions that include participating in essential services and working, through July 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, many City employees of the City of Walthourville (hereinafter, “City”) and many members of the public who visit City Hall and other City buildings may be members of Vulnerable Populations; and

¹ <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

WHEREAS, some City employees and many members of the public who visit City Hall and other City properties are members of the following “Other Populations at Risk” identified by the CDC: pregnant women, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to protect individuals in said Vulnerable Populations and Other Populations at Risk, in a reasonable manner and as recommended by the CDC and by the Georgia Department of Public Health, while such individuals are working in, conducting business in, or visiting City Hall and other City buildings; and

WHEREAS, the CDC², Dr. Kathleen Toomey (Georgia’s Commissioner of Public Health), and Governor Kemp through Executive Order 05.12.20.02 recommend that individuals wear face coverings over the nose and mouth to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when they are in public places where they cannot practice social distancing (i.e., stay at least six feet away from other individuals who do not share the same household); and

WHEREAS, the CDC states that wearing a face covering over the nose and mouth is a recommended precaution designed to prevent symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who have contracted COVID-19 from spreading it to other individuals; and

WHEREAS, to be an effective precaution, it is necessary to require all City employees and members of the public to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth while in public areas in the City building and while meeting in the City building; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Toomey and Governor Kemp have modeled the behavior of wearing face coverings as examples for Georgians to follow; and

WHEREAS, having City Hall and other City offices open and accessible to the public as necessary to conduct in-person business that cannot be conducted by other means is important for the economic vitality of the City;

² CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

“In light of new data about how COVID-19 spreads, along with evidence of widespread COVID-19 illness in communities across the country, CDC recommends that people wear a cloth face covering to cover their nose and mouth in the community setting. This is to protect people around you if you are infected but do not have symptoms.”

A cloth face covering should be worn whenever people are in a community setting, especially in situations where you may be near people. These settings include grocery stores and pharmacies. These face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Cloth face coverings are especially important to wear in public in areas of widespread COVID-19 illness.

Yes. Wearing cloth face coverings is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. CDC still recommends that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people (social distancing), frequent hand cleaning and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

WHEREAS, certain activities, such as discussing and reviewing construction and other permits, benefit from or require face-to-face interactions between City employees and other individuals; and

WHEREAS, City Hall closed on March 20, 2020, and the City is in process of reopening City Hall; and

WHEREAS, if a City employee is exposed to the novel coronavirus, by an individual visiting a City building or otherwise, in accordance with CDC guidance³ such employee will need to quarantine at home for at least 14 days; and

WHEREAS, if a City employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 or develops COVID-19 symptoms, such employee will be required to isolate at home⁴ in accordance with CDC guidance; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §36-35-3 allows city governments to establish rules for use of and access to its own property for which no provision has been made by general law and which are not inconsistent with the Constitution or any charter provision applicable thereto; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to establish policies for how the public can access City buildings during the Public Health State of Emergency and thereafter, including closing City buildings, or opening City buildings to the public but placing restrictions on public access; and

WHEREAS, the City has made and continues to make efforts to reduce the need for members of the public to physically visit City Hall and other City buildings to interact with City employees, pay bills, and conduct other business with the City; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to assist its employees and the public with mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in City buildings by providing hand sanitizer, designating an entrance door and an exit door, disinfecting common surfaces regularly, prohibiting handshaking, and encouraging social distancing of non-cohabitating persons, as well as other mitigating measures described in Executive Order 05.12.20.02; and

WHEREAS, despite these precautions, the City recognizes that it is not possible to ensure social distancing within the City buildings; and

WHEREAS, the following actions are necessary and appropriate to balance the public's interest in having access to City buildings for the conduct of business and other purposes with the compelling public interest of providing for the health, safety and welfare of the City's employees and individuals who visit City Hall and other City buildings and preventing an outbreak of COVID-19 in the City and the surrounding community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that for the protection of members of the public and other City employees, including members of Vulnerable Populations and members of Other Populations at Risk, City employees are required to wear face coverings over the nose and

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html>

mouth, which face coverings are cloth face coverings as defined by the CDC or are face coverings designed to protect others from infection by the wearer, when in public areas of City buildings and when participating in physical meetings with other individuals within non-public areas of City buildings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the protection of members of the public and City employees, including members of Vulnerable Populations and members of Other Populations at Risk, members of the public are required to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth, which face coverings are cloth face coverings as defined by the CDC or are face coverings designed to protect others from infection by the wearer, when entering and while inside City buildings except as expressly stated in a separate policy, if any, that applies to certain uses of portions of City buildings, such as courtrooms and polling locations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will communicate ways to perform city business that do not require entry into a City building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City does not have public restroom facilities for use by members of the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for City business that must be done in person, the City will take reasonable steps to provide such in-person service to members of the public who affirm they cannot wear a face covering because they are physically unable to remove such a face covering, have trouble breathing, or must be accompanied by children under age two (CDC states that children under age two should never wear face coverings).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will communicate the types of acceptable face coverings required for entry into City buildings and instructions by the CDC about how to make such face coverings easily and inexpensively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will display information from the CDC explaining or illustrating the proper way to wear and remove face coverings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will provide face coverings to individuals visiting City buildings who do not otherwise have a face covering that meets these requirements.

This the 9th day of June, 2020.



Mayor Larry D. Baker
City of Walthourville



Ms. Shana T. Moss
City Clerk