



City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2020
6:00 PM

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Larry D. Baker
- II. Roll Call: The roll 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
(Arrived at 6:04 pm)

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

The attendance of Council constituted a quorum.

Other Attendees

Robert L. Russell for Luke R. Moses
Latonia C. Wright

City Attorney
Executive Assistant to Mayor Larry D. Baker

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Mayor Larry D. Baker
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Presentation: Mr. G. Ben Turnipseed, City Engineer
- Water**

Mr. Turnipseed addressed the Mayor and Council on several issues. He spoke about the city's archaic water lines and Shaw and Hardwick Roads. In 2012 G. Ben Turnipseed, Engineers completed a water study. This study recommended \$2.5 million dollars in improvements which would have resulted in Phase III of the city's sewer system. This would include looping lines, repairing wells and tanks. In 2010 and 2018 the tanks were inspected. Mr. Turnipseed recommended the painting of interior and exterior wells, he suggested this is a good time for it to be done. He stated the city could possibly apply for a USDA Rural Development Grant. These grants will have a low interest rate and the city could possibly apply for up to 75% of the grant. Mr. Turnipseed said that Woodrow Sapp is assisting in flushing lines and hydrants and he is in constant communication with them. He said the city's water is safe to drink and flushing is good but incorrect flushing and flushing too much can disturb the natural sediments in the water. He further stated a few questions should be asked from the citizens, (a) is it hot, cold or tap water that smells (b) are the pipes in the home magnesium or aluminum, magnesium will pull sulfur out of the home. Recently, his office has compiled a GIS map of the city's water lines. This map shows the proposed lines that will need to be looped. There are several dead end roads in the city and he suggested putting a flush valve and setting it up on a timer to flush on a cycle. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated her middle bathroom has smelly water and the water has a rust color. Mr. Turnipseed asked if she knew what type pipes were in her home. She didn't know. Councilwoman Hayes asked about the time frame and decision from the USDA Grant. Mr. Turnipseed stated it would take 6-9 months and the interest rates on these loans changes quarterly and he also stated GEFA (Georgia Environmental Finance Authority) Loans have low interest rates. Councilwoman Hayes asked if the prior sewer project would have to be repaired or disturbed and Mr. Turnipseed said no. Councilwoman Hayes stated citizens in the Oakridge Subdivision have major problems of flooding in

the area and poor drainage. Mr. Turnipseed stated when Shaw Road is resurfaced and the ditches are reconfigured this will alleviate the flooding problem.

Roads

Mr. Turnipseed spoke about Shaw and Hardwick Roads. Shaw Road has large potholes and the road is in dire need of resurfacing. Shaw Road is a major thoroughfare in the city. G. Ben Turnipseed, Engineers submitted a Construction Cost Estimate for Shaw Road in the amount of \$ 302,350.00. Trent Long of T.R. Long Engineering conducted a traffic study during the week of August 13, 2020 and the average daily traffic was 2500 vehicles. He also stated his firm had prepared a construction cost estimate for Hardwick Road in the amount of \$309,500.00. He stated Hardwick Road would have to be built up because it is low. He said he thinks most of the easements have been obtained and Hardwick does not drain well. Mayor Baker polled Councilmembers for comments. Councilman Hendry stated Shaw needed paving, Councilman Anderson, stated Hardwick needed paving, Councilwoman Kelly had no comment, Councilwoman Hayes stated Shaw Road is a major thoroughfare and needs to be paved. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked if the looping of the lines will affect Shaw, Mr. Turnipseed stated no. This was a presentation and no action was taken.

Councilwoman Kelly left the meeting due to illness.

- VI. Adoption of the Council Agenda: The motion to adopt the agenda was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

- VII. Adoption of City Council Minutes: Councilmembers

The motion to approve the regular minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.

Opposed: Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette

The motion to approve the executive session minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.

Opposed: Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette

- VIII. Agenda Items

Old Business None

New Business Mayor and Council

1. Caines-Hodges, CPA Mr. Matthew Caines
For Mayor and Council to approve the CPA Firm of Caines-Hodges to serve as the city's financial management entity. Mr. Mathew Caines stated his firm has a long history of working with local governments. There are two partners with over 40 years of experience. He will provide the same services as a Finance Director but at a lower cost. Councilwoman Hayes asked about his cost and he stated between \$1,000-\$2,000 monthly. He will conduct work as well as his staff. His hourly rate is \$150.00 and his staff's rate is \$75.00. To defray the cost if the staff can provide the service they will do the work. Mayor and Council voted to approve for the firm to handle the catch-up work and he will come before the Mayor and Council again to see if this will be a permanent

assignment. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.

Opposed: Mayor Pro-Tem Lovette.

2. Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber Mrs. Sabrina Newby
Economic Development opportunities for the City of Walthourville. Mrs. Newby stated the CGMC is an official 5013C and they refer to themselves as an Information Hub. Their goal is for minority businesses to thrive. The CGMC has monetary funding available and has provided loans up to \$40,000 and grants up to \$10,000. The CGMC works with certified minority contractors. They want to put small businesses on the map. She would like for the City of Walthourville to join the Minority Chamber, the rural municipal fees are \$500.00 annually. Councilwoman Hayes asked what separates the CGMC from the Liberty County Chamber. Mrs. Newby states the Liberty County Chamber is traditional and the minority chamber is engaging. She passed a sample of the city logo she had revised. This was a presentation item and no action was required.
3. CARES Discussion Mayor and Council
Mayor Baker stated the CARES Funding has been approved. The city has received the initial 30% of \$64,623.22 and the additional \$150,787.51 has been approved and the city is awaiting the funds from the State of Georgia. Mayor Baker stated when the funds arrive the council will be notified.

IX. Council Updates: (3 minute limit)

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Chief Burns gave the fire departments statistics from August 11th-September 7th, 2020. They had 33 medical calls, 1 structure fire, 5 motor vehicles accidents, 5 false alarms, 4 miscellaneous fire calls.

Economic Development

Councilwoman Sarah B. Hayes

She spoke about the drainage problem in Oakridge Estates. She asked about the city possibly implementing a trash can ordinance, citizens constantly leave their trash cans on the street. She will be attending the Census Press Conference and the Voter Registration at Clyde's Market.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Stated he has received calls about low water pressure, which is because of the hydrant's being flushed. The grapple truck is being repaired at Freightliner. The street department are picking up litter and cutting grass. The ditches on Shaw Road have been cut and the potholes have been repaired.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgett Kelly

CW Kelly left the meeting due to illness. Mayor Baker stated the water department was flushing hydrants and the city would be disconnecting on October 5th, 2020 for delinquent bills.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette

Asked the Police Department to patrol the parks. Citizens are getting into the park and Johnnie Frasier has been closed since March due to COVID. She reported she has still been calling citizens regarding the Census and she has called 1,000 residents. Councilman Hendry asked about the light at Frasier Park it doesn't illuminate.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Captain Chris Reed gave the report for August 11th-September 7th, 2020. There has been 4 auto accidents, 87 citations written, 19 warnings, 3 domestic violence altercations, 4 verbal disputes, 2 juvenile situations and 4 total arrests. Reported there will be a voter registration drive on September 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Mayor's Corner

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Mayor Baker thanked everyone for their kindness during the death of his nephew, Mr. Daylan Baker. He urged citizens to complete the census and to please pay their water bill. He gave accolades to the city hall team for their effort and work in getting the CARES Funding submitted and approved.

X. Executive Session

Mayor and Council

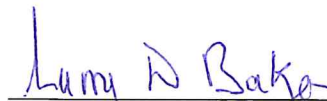
At 7:43 a motion to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry. Vote: 3-0: Motion Carried.

XI. Adjournment: At 8:02 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Hayes and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Shana T. Moss
City Clerk



Larry D. Baker
Mayor