



City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
January 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding

The Honorable Mitchell Boston
The Honorable Bridgette Kelly

The Honorable Robert Dodd

The Honorable Patrick Underwood
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

I.	Meeting Called to Order:	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call:	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance:	In Unison
V.	Adoption of City Council Agenda:	Councilmembers
VI.	Adoption of City Council Minutes:	Councilmembers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 12, 2023----Regular Minutes• December 12, 2023----Executive Session Minutes• December 21, 2023—Special Called Meeting Minutes
VII.	Presentation(s):	None
VIII.	Agenda Items:	
IX.	Governing Body Comments	
	Mayor	Mayor Sarah Hayes
	Councilman Mitchell Boston	Post 1
	Councilman Patrick Underwood	Post 2
	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Post 3
	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette	Post 4
	Councilman Robert Dodd	Post 5

X.	Citizens Comments Comments limited to 3 (three minutes) only.	Walthourville Citizens
XI.	Executive Session	None
XII.	Adjournment When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: (1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation	Councilmembers

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting

January 9, 2024
was cancelled due to
Inclement Weather.

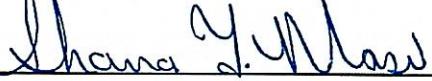
No minutes.

Shana T. Moss

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk

January 9, 2024 Minutes

Were from December 2023 and are in the 2023 Minute book.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shana T. Moss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Shana" on the top line and "T. Moss" on the bottom line.

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
January 23, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding

The Honorable Mitchell Boston

The Honorable Bridgette Kelly

The Honorable Robert Dodd

The Honorable Patrick Underwood

The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell

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I. Meeting Called to Order: **Mayor Sarah B. Hayes**

II. Roll Call: **City Clerk**

III. Invocation **Appointee**

IV. Pledge of Allegiance: **In Unison**

V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: **Councilmembers**

VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes: **Councilmembers**

No Minutes from January 9, 2024, the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

- December 12, 2023----Regular Minutes
- December 12, 2023----Executive Session Minutes
- December 21, 2023—Special Called Meeting Minutes

VII. Presentation(s): **None**

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LEMA Mr. Thomas (Trip) W. Duke III

Liberty County Emergency Management Agency (LEMA)

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SWMAA) MOU.

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement to ensure the City continues State support of resources from pre-existing agreements for mutual aid assistance in case of emergencies.

2. City of Walthourville

Mayor and Council

- Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem
- Appointment of City Attorney
- Appointment of Magistrate Court Judge
- Appointment of City Finance Officer
- Appointment of Department Heads

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor and Council

- Work Sessions Dates- To be determined.
- City Charter and Ordinance Review Date(s) To be determined.
- Walthourville's 50th Anniversary Celebration To Be determined.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville Departments

- Fire Department Chief Nicolas Maxwell
- Police Department Chief Christopher Reed
- Water Department Mr. Patrick Golphin
- Mayor's Corner Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

X. Citizens Comments

Three-minute limit (3 Minutes)

Citizens

XI. Executive Session

None

XII. Adjournment

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

Councilmembers

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Patrick Underwood	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette	Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present for the meeting.

- III. Invocation was given by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.
- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes: The motion to adopt the following was made by:
 - December 12, 2023-Regular minutes, the motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was provided by Councilman Underwood.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Voting favorably were Councilmembers: Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.
Voting opposed: Councilwoman Lovette.
 - December 12, 2023- Executive Session Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Voting favorably were Councilmembers: Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.
Voting opposed: Councilwoman Lovette.
 - December 21, 2023-Special Called Meeting Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Voting favorably were Councilmembers: Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.
Voting opposed: Councilwoman Lovette.
- VII. Presentation(s): None

VIII. Agenda Items

1. LEMA

Mr. Thomas (Trip) W. Duke III
Liberty County Emergency Management Agency (LEMA). Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SWMAA). Mr. Duke stated the MOU he was presenting would assist the city in obtaining State Resources in the event of a disaster and emergency. This is a four-year agreement and it would need to be renewed in 2028. Mr. Duke stated, "that a State of Emergency has to be declared before this agreement will be effective." The motion to approve the MOU was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

(Councilman Dodd reclused himself from the vote due to conflict of interest, he is the Liberty County Emergency Agency's Director).

2. City of Walthourville

Mayor and Council

- **Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem:** Mayor Hayes stated she wanted to nominate Councilwoman Kelly. Councilman Underwood made the motion, and Councilwoman Kelly seconded. Councilmembers: Dodd, Boston, and Lovette voted against Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 2-3: Motion Failed.

City Attorney Luke Moses said "by operation of the city's Charter, the incumbent on the ballot with the most votes when last elected would automatically become Mayor Pro Tem. which was Councilwoman Lovette." Although she ran unopposed, her name did appear on the ballot. Mayor Hayes inquired if there was an alternative. Attorney Moses referenced Article Two Section 2-6 of the City's Charter, stating that, because the charter reads that the Mayor and Council get to decide, "this is one of the rare instances when the Mayor can cast a vote." Councilwoman Kelly then nominated Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Underwood. Councilmen Boston and Dodd voted no, Mayor Hayes abstained, and Councilwoman Lovette cast the deciding vote for herself.

Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried.

- **Appointment of City Attorney:** The motion to approve Luke R. Moses as City Attorney was made by Councilman Underwood and the second was provided by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.

Members voting favorably were Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Lovette.

Member voting unfavorably was Councilman Dodd.

- **Appointment of Municipal Court Judge:** The motion to reappoint Judge Robert Pirkle was made by Councilman Underwood and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 3-0-2: Motion Carried.

Members voting favorably were Councilmen Dodd, Underwood and Boston. Members abstaining were Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and Councilwoman Kelly.

- Appointment of City Finance Officer. Mayor Hayes stated the city needs to look into hiring an onsite Finance Officer. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated the city definitely needs one. She suggested looking for a city employee with the knowledge, skill set and education. Attorney Moses stated that a full-time position would need to be advertised and that a city employee could apply. Mayor Hayes requested a motion to approve the hiring of a City Finance Officer, with the salary of the person being revisited. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

- Appointment of Department Heads. Mayor Hayes disseminated the appointments of Department Heads. Mayor Hayes stated she will be responsible for communicating with the Fire, Police and Water Departments. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette will continue being the liaison with Parks and Recreation. Councilman Mitchell Boston will be the Public Works liaison. Councilwoman Robert Dodd will work as the city's EMA Liaison in conjunction with Liberty County Emergency Management Agency Director. Councilman Patrick Underwood has been assigned to develop the new Youth Commission and other youth related activities. Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly has been tasked with Special Projects and finding grants and other funding.

3. City of Walthourville

- Work Session Dates. Mayor Hayes stated she would like for the council to convene prior to the regular meeting for a working session to discuss any information on the agenda or any pertinent information that they would like to discuss. The next work session will be held February 13, 2024 at 5:00 PM in the council chambers.
- City Charter and Ordinance Review Date(s). The Mayor stated the City Charter is antiquated and needed to be updated as quickly as possible. Attorney Moses pointed out that any changes would have to be channeled through State Representative Al Williams, at the State Capitol which would probably have to wait until next year's legislative session to get done.
- Walthourville's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The Mayor discussed a celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of Walthourville's incorporation as a city. Although the Georgia Assembly passed Walthourville's charter in March 1974, Mayor Hayes said the reason for delaying the celebration until September was to acquire sponsors to fund the event, "due to the fact that March is so close."

Councilman Boston said, "I think the city's finances need to be first and foremost." Mayor Hayes stated she agreed and that is why she supports obtaining sponsors and moving the celebration until September.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville Departments

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Presented the department's statistics. Chief Maxwell suggested a fair way to assess the fire fee would be to charge a flat fee per square foot: for example, one cent for residential properties, two cents for commercial, and three cents for industrial. No fee would be charged for undeveloped parcels. Chief Maxwell said the city "would need heavy assistance from the Tax Assessor's office" to figure out exactly how much revenue the fire fee would generate, based on properties within the city limits. Mayor Hayes said no one was able to meet with the city until after February 28th. Chief Maxwell further stated, the Fire Department would start a school supply closet for children who lost their school supplies in a fire.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Presented the department's statistics. Chief Reed announced the Citizens Academy, which gives residents the chance to learn about policing firsthand through a series of classes. They are looking at restarting the Citizens Academy which will take place in March on Thursdays at 6 p.m. if enough people sign up. Citizens in the class will get to go on a ride along with WPD officers. Several young people also had approached the department about starting a youth academy. Mayor Hayes suggested that Councilman Underwood and Mayor Pro Lovette offer activities through the Youth Council and Parks and Recreation.

Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golpin

Reported the Water Department is having some problems with the city's current meters. He stated in June of 2023 a representative presented to the Mayor and Council that the city's current meters are obsolete, the life span is 10 years and the current meters were installed in 2013. The representative presented a proposal to the Mayor and Council to replace the current meters with digital meters would cost the city \$900,000. The cost of a current meter is \$250.00 and currently 40 meters are affected.

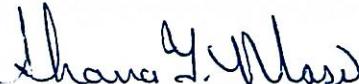
Mayor's Corner

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

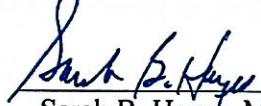
Stated she was happy to see everyone come out. A discussion ensued about the city's recycling. She said a lot of manpower is being spent on the city's recycling and some citizens don't participate. Councilwoman Kelly told her fellow colleagues that enforcing penalties against those who use recycling bins for garbage could prove tough. "By the time the Sanitation Team dump it and see it, it's already in the recycle truck." What do you do then?" Councilman Dodd suggested setting up a recycling cage at a central location where residents would drop off their items. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette said, "the recycling program was not started to make money, it was started to protect and save the environment and reduce the city's landfill cost. Councilman Boston said

he has lived in places where sanitation workers refused to pick up garbage if the recycling wasn't done correctly and that was punishment enough.

X.	Citizens Comments	Citizens
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ms. Gwendolyn Dykes said that, when the city used to have a central recycling drop-off location, it was "a mess" and that the curbside bins "were a blessing."2. Mrs. Gail Ford said that, over the past year, she had seen recycling put into the regular trash truck.3. Mrs. Yvette Sanders said that she agrees with Councilman Boston that people who don't separate their recycling shouldn't have their trash picked up. She added that residents "need clarification on what can and cannot be recycled" and that it was not fair to penalize everyone for a few people's actions.		
XI.	Executive Session	None
XII.	Adjournment: The motion to adjourn at 7:17 PM was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was provided by Councilman Boston.	



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
February 13, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding

The Honorable Mitchell Boston
The Honorable Bridgette Kelly

The Honorable Robert Dodd

The Honorable Patrick Underwood
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

I. Meeting Called to Order: **Mayor Sarah B. Hayes**

II. Roll Call: **City Clerk**

III. Invocation **Appointee**

IV. Pledge of Allegiance: **In Unison**

V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: **Councilmembers**

VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes: **Councilmembers**

• January 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

VII. Presentation(s): **None**

VIII. Agenda Items:

**1. LCPC
Public Hearing** **Ms. Lori Parks**

Rezoning Petition 2024-001-W. A rezoning petition submitted by Mr. Melvin B. Bellmon to rezone 0.40 acres +/- from AR-1 (Agricultural Residential) to C-3 (Highway Commercial) for a barbecue restaurant. The property is located at the intersection of Dunlevie Road and Bobbie Street in Walthourville and is described as LCTM Parcel 063CO23.

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove Rezoning Petition 2024-001-W.

2. LCPC**Ms. Lori Parks**

Mobile Home Permit for Sanders Road Parcel-051C003 for a double wide manufactured home. The owner is Hinesville Home Center, Inc. The property is zoned AR-1 (Agricultural Residential) which allows double or single wide homes.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the permit.

3. LCPC**Ms. Lori Parks**

Mobile Home Permit for 9 Jones Court Parcel-051A064 for a double wide manufactured home. The owner is Hinesville Home Center, Inc. The property is zoned SFMH (Single-family Manufactured Home) which allows double or single wide homes.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/ disapprove the permit.

4. LCPC**Ms. Lori Parks**

Business License Request for ABL Tax Services. The owner is Mrs. Andrea Brown-Lewis and the business will be located at 1512 Talmadge Road, Parcel # 052B032. ABL Tax Services will be providing full tax services to clients and no clients will be coming to the residence.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the Business License Request.

5. City of Walthourville**Mayor Sarah B. Hayes**

Keep Liberty Beautiful Proclamation. To declare Friday February 16, 2024 as Arbor Day in the City of Walthourville.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to authorize execution of the Proclamation.

6. City of Walthourville**Councilman Mitchell Boston**

City Millage Rate. For the Mayor and Council to discuss and set the city's millage rate.

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to authorize the Public Hearing Dates to set the city's millage for 2025.

7. City of Walthourville**Mayor Sarah B. Hayes**

City Fire Fee.

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to finalize the specifications for the City to collect the Fire Fee.

IX. Department Reports**City of Walthourville Departments**

- Water Department
- Fire Department
- Police Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Chief Christopher Reed

X. Mayor and Council Comments

- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works
- Youth Council
- Special Projects
- Emergency Update
- Mayor's Corner

Walthourville Elected Officials

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Councilman Robert Dodd
Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

XI. Citizens Comments

Three-minute limit (3 Minutes)

Citizens

XII. Executive Session

Attorney Luke R. Moses

XIII. Adjournment

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

**City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024**

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes. The regular meeting was late starting due to the Work Session going over the allocated time.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Mitchell Boston	Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

- III. The Invocation was given by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.
- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes: The motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from the January 23, 2024 meeting was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Members voting favorably: Councilmembers Boston, Underwood Kelly and Dodd.
Member opposing: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.
- VII. Presentation None
- VIII. Agenda Items

1. LCPC Ms. Lori Parks
Public Hearing for Rezoning Petition 2024-001-W. Ms. Parks presented a zoning request on behalf of Mr. Melving B. Bellmon to rezone 0.40 acres +/- from AR-1 (Agricultural Residential) to C-3 (Highway Commercial) for a barbecue restaurant. The property is located at the intersection of Dunlevie Road and Bobbie Street. Ms. Parks stated that applicant was Bruce Bellmon, he was born and raised in Allenhurst, Georgia in the Pray and Martin families. He moved to Atlanta in 1984 and cooked at several fine dining restaurants for over 40 years.

Ms. Parks additionally stated that there are unique conditions that support approval or denial because the property is located at the entrance of an established single-family subdivision and proximate to existing single-family residences. LCPC recommended disapproval.

Public Hearing was open for citizens in support of, or against the rezoning.

Citizens Opposing:

- Ms. Brenda Withers stated she supports businesses coming to Walthourville. However, her home is adjacent to the proposed rezoning, and she feels a business will affect her home. She is fearful that foot traffic through her yard will increase, and patrons will be dropping trash in her yard. She also added that noise will be a factor. She is asking the Mayor and Council to disapprove.

Citizens Supporting:

- None. The applicant was not present, nor was anyone on her behalf.

Councilman Underwood stated he resides in the subdivision behind the proposed rezoning, and he has spoken to the residents in the area and they oppose the rezoning.

The public hearing was closed and the motion to disapprove was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

2. LCPC Ms. Lori Parks
Mobile Home Permit for Sanders Road Parcel0-51 C003 for a double wide manufactured home. The owner is Hinesville Home Center and city water and sewer will be connected. The property is zoned AR-1 (Agricultural Residential) which allows double or single wide homes. Type B skirting will be used which is vinyl treated lumber. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously
3. LCPC Ms. Lori Parks
Mobile Home Permit for 9 Jones Court Parcel-051 A064 for a double wide manufactured home. The owner is Hinesville Home Center and city water and sewer will be connected. The property is zoned SFMH (Single-Family Manufactured Homes) and this allows double or single wide homes. Type B skirting will be used which can consist of vinyl treated lumber or masonry material. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously
4. LCPC Ms. Lori Parks
Business License Request for ABL Tax Services. Ms. Parks stated the owner is Ms. Andrea Brown Lewis and her business will be located at 1512 Talmadge Road, and she will be providing full tax service to clients and no clients will be coming to her residence. The owner of the residence is Carolyn Walthour and she provided a letter of support that she approved for the business to be located at the home. Mrs. Brown-Lewis

was present and she spoke and said she would be doing taxes via online and phone conversations. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

5. City of Walthourville Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Keep Liberty Beautiful Proclamation. Mayor Hayes asked the KLB Representative to please stand. She read the Proclamation designating Friday February 16, 2024 as Arbor Day in the city. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

6. City of Walthourville Councilman Mitchell Boston
City Millage Rate. Councilman Boston stated he felt the city needed to act on setting a millage rate for the city. He is aware that meetings were previously held but from what he has researched these meetings were not official to establish a millage. Councilman Boston said the city's finances were exceeding the revenue that the city was receiving. He referenced as an example the city's Solid Waste (landfill) bill for January 2024. He stated the city's landfill bill was around \$11,000 and the fees collected for the landfill was roughly \$7,000 and that left a \$4,000 deficit and each month the city is losing money. Just this expense alone, with a deficit of \$4,000 monthly x 12 that equals \$48,000 annually that the city has to absorb.

Attorney Moses stated the council must set a rate for taxation before it can advertise the meetings. He further stated, "We can't just say, 'We're advertising to determine whether or not we're going to implement a millage rate' or 'we're going to implement a millage rate but we're going to tell the citizens the number at the end of the three meetings". "We have to determine what the millage rate is and include that in the advertisements that go in the paper."

Councilman Dodd stated he spoke with Mrs. Glenda Roberts in the Tax Assessor's Office, and she reported if the city has all the meetings and a definitive rate set and if they can meet the March 31, 2024 deadline to have all submitted information the city can begin collection is 2025.

Attorney Moses stated the city would need to reach out to the Tax Commissioner because they would have to collect the millage and the city would need to know the amount the Tax Commissioner would charge for collection. All these components would need to be factored in.

Mayor Hayes stated most importantly the city will need to speak with Mr. Virgil Jones, Tax Commissioner, to determine the city's rate and that she would make contact with him.

Councilman Boston stated he had communicated with City CPA, Mr. Matthew Caines who informed him that 1 mill equals \$1,000.

Councilwoman Kelly inquired about the three meetings needed to adhere to the March 31, 2024 deadline. Attorney Moses stated the city could have more than one meeting daily. The motion to set the dates to establish the city's millage rate was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette. The following dates and time were set for March 14th, at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM and March 22nd at 5:00 PM with all meetings being held at the Walthourville Fire Department. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

7. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

City Fire Fee. Mayor Hayes stated the city implemented a Fire Fee of \$25.00 per household within the city limits who receives Fire Service in December of 2023. Currently, as of this meeting the fire fee has not been collected; therefore, this places the city in a deficit with the projected revenue the city should be collecting. The Fire Fee was suppose to start in January and here we are in February and we still don't have the Fire Fee. She additionally stated, "The fire fee is not something that anyone looks forward to doing," but it is necessary to keep the general fund from being overextended.

Councilman Boston said, "I think that we need a fire fee in order to get through this year, because a budget was passed with the fire fee. And currently not having a fire fee, we're not in compliance with the budget." He added, "I think it should be more equitable. I don't agree with a flat rate for everyone because we have commercial industry and residential households and different properties have different circumstances such as various square footage, different fire risk, but most importantly we need to act immediately.

Councilwoman Kelly stated, "I think we need some kind of fee, and we did say the Fire Fee and it will only be for this year, so I do support the Fire Fee." She also inquired asking when the millage takes effect, the fire fee will be discontinued, correct? Mayor Pro Tem Lovette said, "I'm not in support, because will confuse the citizens by starting off with a fire fee, which is only for the fire department. And then next year, we're going to bring a millage rate. And we're gonna impose that on the citizens. So, I'm not in support of imposing both of those at the same time on the citizens."

Councilman Dodd explained, "We won't start collecting until 2025. We'll be paying on it in 2024. "The previous council approved a \$25 fire fee. However, you guys did that, came up with that in the previous council, that's already done." "We, new councilmembers, inherited this situation, I think the question now is, how do we collect it?" Councilman Boston, added, "every month that we don't collect, that's \$65,000, roughly, that we are in the red." Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she still doesn't support a Fire Fee. Councilwoman Kelly asked the Mayor Pro Tem if she had any alternatives since she doesn't support the Fire Fee. The Mayor Pro Tem states she supports a Forensic Audit because everyone needs to know where the money is/went. She explained that the council opposes it, but it needs to be done." Councilman Boston said he did not support a forensic audit because he felt the issue was one of "more going out than what's coming in." Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked, how did we derive at that?" Councilman Boston pointed to solid waste costs, which the city has not collected enough to cover. He said the city sent 241 tons to the landfill in

January, which cost about \$11,700, but that the city had only collected about \$7,000 to pay that bill, leaving a \$4,700 deficit. Losing that much monthly, multiply that amount monthly time 12 and the city is drastically in arrears.

Councilman Dodd added that city departments like fire and police, are growing and that the city needs to pay its employes enough to keep them from looking for work in other cities. Mayor Hayes added that the city's fire coverage area has grown," Allenhurst has over 800 homes now and they did not have that many, prior.

Mayor Hayes asked Fire Chief Nicolas Maxwell to present his presentation, again. Chief Maxwell said Walthourville's current number of fire customers are based on the number of city water customers. Although the city does provide water service to a few customers outside the city, Chief Maxwell said the fire fee had to be adjusted because the city was not able to send bills out for January and February. Mayor Hayes and Councilwoman Kelly pointed out that, while the fire fee is based on the number of people who have water connections with the city, other customers are on well water and have sewer-only connections.

Chief Maxwell said the fire fee would go to "everybody that gets a bill from the City of Walthourville for water utility and sewage that live in the city limits. Those are the only people we can bill this fire fee to." He further added that he does not suggest billing vacant land, that has no structure on it. The Chief also said the city does not charge nor collect regulatory fees for things like fire inspections. He said he was made aware of a situation pertaining to a business in the city that received a cease-and-desist notice from DHP (Georgia Department of Public Heath) and we can't do anything to assist because I don't have an inspector." He is also aware that the council fire fee was not a perfect solution to the budget issue. "We could sit here and legitimately poke holes in the fire fee all day," he said. "But the reason we decided to go forward with the fire fee is because the fire department is a tremendous expense. And in order to fund that, you have to have a revenue source — whether it be dedicated to fire only or not — we had to find a revenue source to continue to provide fire services....We're not trying to sell a fire fee to residents for, 'you've gotten a service all these years for free; now you're gonna pay for it and get the same service.' We've made tremendous strides at the fire department in the past 6 to 8 months. Those things cost money and if the city collects and uses the fire fee prudently, the fire department will improve its capabilities which would lead to a better ISO Fire Safety Rating which will result in lower homeowners' insurance rates. The question was asked, "what if someone refuses to pay the fire fee? The Chief said the city could bill the property owner for the actual cost of the incident at their home, which could escalate in the tens of thousands of dollars. "What's likely to happen if you do that, and your insurance becomes aware that you chose not to pay \$26 a month, now you have a \$50,000 invoice from the city, they're probably gonna cancel your policy," Maxwell explained. "And they're probably not going to repair any of the damage that occurred. We're still waiting to hear back from some of the insurance adjusters that live in the area whether homeowners can expect to see a rollback in their premiums that are directly tied to the fire fee."

Councilman Dodd said of the fire fee, that we think it should be fair for everyone. "I think if one pays, all should pay and it should not matter if you are a landowner or resident, you're still paying property taxes here, so you should. It doesn't matter even if you don't have a structure and you own land there, you should pay". Chief Maxwell explained that the city fire department would respond to medical calls and put out structure fires and small grass fires, but that EMS runs medical calls, and a major brush fire would be handled by Georgia Forestry firefighters. "We're trying to install a fee that will enhance the capabilities that only we provide," he said. "No other fire department, no other entity is responding to a fire in a structure in the city of Walthourville, other than the Walthourville Fire Department and our neighbors that come to help us out." Chief Maxwell additionally added that he has spoken extensively with Garden City's Fire Chief, and they have been very successful in collecting their Fire Fee, the citizens comply.

Councilman Underwood said he had heard enough. We have had Chief Maxwell here too many times and it is time for us to make a decision. He stated he wants to proceed with this because it's getting aggravating to him. Today is probably my last day talking about this. He suggested a flat rate of \$25.00 for the next 10 months. This discussion keeps going on and on and on. Also, he stated he was tired of talking about a Forensic Audit. Councilwoman Kelly voiced her concern about increasing the water rates this year and Mayor Hayes said this problem would be tackled, first. The Fire Fee wasn't collected in January and February of this year; therefore, to stay on targeted budget projections the Mayor and Council decided instead of \$25.00 that was suppose to be collected over 12 months, the fee would be \$31.60 and would be collected over 10 months through December 2024.

Attorney Moses asked City Hall if the Fire Fee would be on the March bill. City Clerk Moss stated the reasoning the city could not collect the fee was due to the computers at City Hall. The city's software company stated the city's computers are outdated and to collect the fee they would need to be upgraded. City Hall is operating on Windows 8. Ms. Moss stated City Hall was tasked with obtaining the cost of replacing the computers at City Hall and to replace 10 the cost would be \$25,500.00, one computer cost \$1,650.00 due to the malware and firewalls that have to be placed on them to prevent a cyber or ransom attack. Ms. Moss stated Mayor Hayes said due to the cost they could order one and within the next few months another one could be purchased. Ms. Moss added to the Mayor and Council, "I want to beg you all, please. I know we can get the one, but is there any way you all could give us two?" Councilman Boston said that was feasible, especially if the \$25,000 that was allocated for the Forensic audit be reallocated to purchase the computers at City Hall, that would allow City Hall to get the computers to be able to do their work. Councilman Underwood said, he wholeheartedly agreed. Councilman Dodd made the motion to reallocate the \$25,000 from the Forensic Audit to purchase the City Hall computers and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 3-0-1: Motion Carried.

Councilmen Boston, Underwood and Dodd voted favorably.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette voted no.

Councilwoman Kelly did not raise her hand, she stated she was in support of the fire fee but against the reallocation. Attorney Moses asked whether her vote was no or an abstention, Councilwoman Kelly said, "No, abstain, whatever you wanna call it", Mayor Hayes called again for the vote which was the same as before.

The motion to approve the Fire Fee of \$31.60 monthly beginning in March of 2024 and commencing in December of 2024 was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 3-0-1 Motion Carried.

Members voting favorably was Councilmen Boston, Dodd and Underwood.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette opposed.

Councilwoman Kelly stated, "I'm not voting because I already said what I had to say about it," abstaining or whatever you wanna say." She then asked if one computer was \$1.650.00 why were the computers so expensive? Mayor Hayes stated the \$25,000 entailed 10 computers, installation charges, software configurations and firewalls to prevent hacking and ransoms.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville Departments

Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Mr. Golphin was absent due to being ill. Report was given by Shana T. Moss. The city will close Shaw Road on Thursday February 15th due to a Water/Sewer project. She stated the notice of the road closure and water service interruption has been advertised on WTOC, WSAV, the Coastal Courier, and the City Facebook and Website pages. Councilman Dodd complimented the City Hall Team on the public exposure and awareness.

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Gave the Fire Department statistics and stated they have been busy. He referenced the train fatality and stated the fire department was immediately on the scene and the city's ATV vehicles that were purchased with USDA Grant Funds proved to be vital in the fatality search. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked if any of the firefighters had expressed a need for mental health counseling? Chief Maxwell stated Fire Chief Chaplain Richard D. Hayes had been contacted but all the firefighters stated they were fine.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported that he and Major Hook attended Chiefs Day at the State Capitol. They witnessed the legislature in session. He gave the departments statistics and reported about the log truck incident that occurred on February 5th and closed Talmage Road for about 4 hours. He reported the Officer that was injured in a vehicle accident in 2022 was still out and would be undergoing an additional surgery.

X. Mayor and Council Comments

Elected Officials

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette

Reported about the fence at the Park and that it needed to be replaced.

Public Works

Councilman Mitchell Boston

Reported that Public Works was progressing. He reiterated the information he had stated previously about the Solid Waste (landfill) Bill and that the city was losing almost \$4,000 monthly. He stated he was still gathering information about the city's Sanitation Collection.

Youth Council**Councilman Patrick Underwood**

Reported the city will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 30th from 12:00PM-2:00 PM. He further added that no city funds would be used. The city will obtain sponsors and donations will be accepted. The event will occur at Johnnie Frasier Park and will be complete with a Easter Bunny and a Bounce House. Attorney Moses told Councilman Underwood that his office would be one of the sponsors.

Special Projects**Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly**

Reported the city will be having its 50 Year Celebration and the events will be held in September. More information will be forthcoming.

Emergency Update**Councilman Robert Dodd**

Stated he worked with Ms. Moss to obtain the city's re-entry passes from GEMA. He suggested that only the critical workforce be given the passes in the event of an emergency/evacuation. There is an SOP that accompanies the passes, and the SOP is in City Hall.

Mayor's Corner**Mayor Sarah B. Hayes**

Reported the City's 50th Year Celebration will be held in September, and she is asking each Councilmember to assist and participate. She suggested a Youth Weekend and asked Councilman Underwood to facilitate that weekend. She further suggested a Senior Citizens weekend or perhaps a Dirt Bowl (Basketball) Tournament.

XI. Citizens Comments

1. Ms. Gwendolyn Dykes commented on the Fire Fee. She stated she doesn't mind paying her Fair Share, but why are we not figuring out the specifics of the Fire Fee and what everyone business and residential is having to pay.

2. Dr. Cathy Jennings commented that this was her first time attending a council meeting. She learned a lot of information tonight. She stated she would appreciate more information when the Mayor and Council have intentions of raising fees. She added that she learned tonight by attending that the city is discussing millage and property taxes, water rates were mentioned, and all of these things will affect all citizens. She also stated she works with computers and everything the lady (City Clerk) stated was correct. Computers are expensive and they must have firewall protection.

XII. Executive Session**Attorney Luke R. Moses**

At 7:47 PM a motion to enter into Executive Session for litigation was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

At 8:14 PM a motion to exit Executive Session and re-enter Open Session was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment:**Councilmembers**

At 8:16 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

Shana T. Moss
Shana T. Moss, City Clerk

Sarah B. Hayes
Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
February 26, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette The Honorable Mitchell Boston
The Honorable Patrick Underwood The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Robert Dodd

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

I.	Meeting Called to Order:	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call:	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance:	In Unison
V.	Adoption of City Council Agenda:	Councilmembers
VI.	Adoption of City Council Minutes:	Councilmembers
 February 13, 2024 Regular Meeting February 13, 2024 Executive Session		
VII.	Presentation(s):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liberty County Board of Commissioners. The Honorable Justin Frasier Economic Development Opportunities.• Georgia Rural Water City of Walthourville Water Rates Study Analysis.	Mr. Bill Powell

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request for Heelz N Wheelz, LLC. (Private Membership Club).
The Business Owner is Ms. Latonya Maxwell and the property owner is the late Charles Frasier. Heelz N Wheelz LLC is a private membership club operated by ladies first motorcycle club. The establishment is not open to the public it is a place of fellowship for the SEGA (Southeast Georgia Alliance) Motorcycle Club. There are 32 motorcycle clubs between Long, Liberty and Chatham Counties that are members of SEGA. There will be no alcohol served and they will only be operational on Tuesday night, which is called Hang Night and is a social event.

Recommendation: LCPC recommends approval, the property is zoned C2 (General Commercial).

2. City of Walthourville

Councilman Mitchell Boston

City of Walthourville' s Recycling.

3. City of Walthourville

Councilman Mitchell Boston

Gov Deals for City Vehicles.

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette

Johnnie Frasier Park the discussion of replacing fencing.

IX. Department Reports

- Water Department
- Fire Department
- Police Department

City of Walthourville Departments

Mr. Patrick Golpin
Chief Nicolas Maxwell
Chief Christopher Reed

X. Governing Body Comments

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Robert Dodd

Office of the Mayor
Post 1
Post 2
Post 3
Post 4
Post 5

XI. Citizens Comments

Walthourville Citizens

Comments limited to 3 (three minutes) only.

XII. Executive Session

None

XIII. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I. Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Robert Dodd

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood

Member Absent: Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

III. The Invocation was given by Councilman Mitchell Boston.

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Adoption of Mayor and Council Agenda: The Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Adoption of Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes:

- February 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was provided by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried: Opposed Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

- February 13, 2024 Executive Session Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried: Opposed Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

Councilman Boston, asked Mayor Pro Tem Lovette if there was a reason why the minutes could not be a unanimous vote, was there a problem with them? The Mayor Pro Tem said, "she had not had an opportunity to read them."

At this time, there was a deviation from the printed agenda and LCPC made their presentation to the Mayor and Council. The numbering will be out of order due to the deviation.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Ms. Parks presented a Business License Request for Heelz N Wheelz, LLC (Private Membership Club). The business owner is Mrs. Latonay Maxwell and the property owner is the late Mr. Charles Frasier. Heelz N Wheelz, LLC is a private membership club that is operated by ladies first motorcycle club. The establishment is not open to the public and it is a place of fellowship for the SEGA (Southeast Georgia Alliance) Motorcycle Club. There are 32 motorcycle clubs between Long, Liberty and Chatham Counties that are members of SEGA. There will be no alcohol served and they will only be operational on Tuesday nights, which is called Hang Night and is a social event.

Mrs. Maxwell stated SEGA was started in Augusta, Georgia in 2005. She said this is a community-oriented organization, and they are actively involved in the communities that they are in. She added the ladies get together once a week in a social setting to discuss their activities and upcoming events. She stated they believe in following rules and this is not a disorderly organization.

The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this time, the regular agenda format resumed as printed.

VII. Presentations:

Liberty County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Justin Frasier

Commissioner Frasier announced that today, "was a difficult day in Liberty County, longtime Tax Commissioner, the Honorable Mr. Virgil Jones passed away, earlier today." He asked for a Moment of Silence in his honor. After his announcement the Mayor Pro Tem stated a Walthourville citizen, Ms. Humphries passed away, also.

Commissioner Frasier stated he was present on behalf of the Liberty County Economic Development Authority and he was committed to attracting and bringing new businesses and industries, supporting the existing enterprises and implementing strategies to the municipalities in Liberty County. His presentation stated:

What? The mission of the Economic Development Authority is to foster economic growth through collaboration and innovation for the continued prosperity of our community.

Why? Helps increase the strength and diversity of local and regional economies to create jobs and improve the quality of life for residents

Who? It is the Community Stakeholders who consist of the Liberty County Commissioners and the Cities of Midway, Walthourville, Riceboro, Flemington and the Private Sector.

How? An Economic Comprehensive Plan will be developed and used

Commissioner Frasier stated he was visiting every municipality in Liberty County and would like to ask Walthourville to sign the resolution for this Economic Development opportunity. Councilman Boston stated he was familiar with the Liberty County Development Authority and felt this would be a good opportunity for the city and we (city) need to move quickly on Economic Development. Councilman Underwood stated the city should sign so that we can explore the opportunities that can be provided in Walthourville. Commissioner Frasier stated he wanted to point out that Hinesville was not included as a stakeholder because they had their own authority, the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority who is dedicated and successful in bringing Economic Development. Mayor Hayes thanked Commissioner Frasier for coming and presenting this information. She said the Mayor and Council would discuss this at their workshop at a later date.

Georgia Rural Water

Mr. Bill Powell

Mr. Powell stated he had been contacted by City Clerk, Shana T Moss to conduct a water rate study for the city and the last rate increase in the city was in 2012. He said that Georgia Rural Water provided the Water Rate Study, free of charge since the city is a member of Georgia Rural Water. He stated he has worked closely with Ms. Moss and Mr. Patrick Golpin analyzing documents and gathering information for him to conduct the study.

He informed the Elected Officials about HB 489 that was adopted in 1997 pertaining to water rates that a city charge such as inside the city limits rates and outside the city limits rates. No municipality can arbitrarily charge more than one price if it cannot be justified that the cost is more to provide the same service regardless of inside versus outside rates. He referenced the City of Winder, Georgia is being sued by Bartow County for charging different rates and said this is something that the Mayor and Council should take into consideration.

Mr. Powell said he reviewed the city's operating budget, current operating expenses and the debt service in making his determination. He stated Walthourville should have increased their rates a few years ago to keep up with the demands and expenses of the water system. The city has added more customers which equates to more water management. He is proposing the following water rate increases.

**WATER AND SEWER RATE COMPARISON
FOR THE CITY OF WALTHOURVILLE**

CURRENT RATES INSIDE			PROPOSED NEW RATES INSIDE			% Increase
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer	Total	
Zero Gallons	\$ 18.00	\$ 23.35	\$ 41.35	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 46.00 11.25%
1,000 Gallons	\$ 22.50	\$ 26.10	\$ 48.60	\$ 27.00	\$ 29.50	\$ 56.50 16.26%
2,000 Gallons	\$ 27.00	\$ 28.85	\$ 55.85	\$ 31.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 67.00 19.97%
3,000 Gallons	\$ 31.75	\$ 31.60	\$ 63.35	\$ 35.25	\$ 42.50	\$ 77.75 22.73%
4,000 Gallons	\$ 36.50	\$ 34.35	\$ 70.85	\$ 39.50	\$ 49.00	\$ 88.50 24.91%
5,000 Gallons	\$ 41.25	\$ 37.10	\$ 78.35	\$ 43.75	\$ 55.50	\$ 99.25 26.68%
6,000 Gallons	\$ 46.25	\$ 39.85	\$ 86.10	\$ 48.25	\$ 62.00	\$ 110.25 28.05%
7,000 Gallons	\$ 51.25	\$ 43.35	\$ 94.60	\$ 52.75	\$ 68.50	\$ 121.25 28.17%
8,000 Gallons	\$ 56.25	\$ 46.85	\$ 103.10	\$ 57.25	\$ 75.00	\$ 132.25 28.27%
9,000 Gallons	\$ 61.25	\$ 50.35	\$ 111.60	\$ 61.75	\$ 81.50	\$ 143.25 28.36%
10,000 Gallons	\$ 66.25	\$ 53.85	\$ 120.10	\$ 66.25	\$ 88.00	\$ 154.25 28.44%

The Mayor and Council were relieved that the rates were not as expensive as anticipated. They took no action and also said this item would be discussed at a workshop. Mr. Powell advised the Mayor and Council to please review this information because the revenue is not sustaining the expenses of the water. He stated Water is the most precious thing we have, we cannot live without water and it has to be safe. He left them with this nugget, "When your outgo(expenses) is more than your ingo (revenue) then upkeep will be your downfall. Mr. Powell said he would be happy to come back to the workshop if they had additional questions. Mayor Hayes informed him, that she would be in contact with him.

AGENDA ITEMS

2. City of Walthourville Councilman Mitchell Boston
Reported the city's recycling program needs to be eliminated. He said basically every household has two polycarts and both of those polycarts are being taken to the landfill, which is costing the city money. He suggest eliminating the recycling but give the citizens an option to pay to keep the additional trash can. Most of the city's recycle polycarts are blue and green. He is proposing an additional \$6.00 monthly to keep the trash can.

He further addressed the city's Bulk Trash collection and stated there were no definitive guideline as to what the city would or would not collect. The landfill cost is astronomical monthly ranging anywhere from \$10,000 sometime \$15,000 and the city is picking up anything. He researched other cities comparable to Walthourville and some of those cities have guidelines for what they pick up. Councilman Boston added that he proposes that all leaves have to be bagged because it takes time when the driver has to collect the leaves and they are not bagged, this results in more manpower. Also, yard debris should be 8x8x4 and limbs should be no more than 6 feet long and 4 inches in diameter. Also, he added that the Bulk Truck could operate on a modified schedule, once weekly, biweekly or monthly. Any additional pickups could/would result in a cost. Councilman Dodd stated the city has sent more than 241 tons some months to the landfill at \$49.00 a ton.

Citizens were in the audience and began to talk without being permitted. Mayor Hayes suggested they hear from the citizens.

At 7:14 PM a motion to enter a Public Hearing for Citizens Comments was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

- Gail Ford stated Walthourville was a military community and when military citizens PCS they put everything outside. The city will need to have some guidelines and the citizens would need to know the cost.
- Patricia Palmer suggested charging for bulk pickup and eliminating the recycling.

- Charlie Richardson stated he understood trying to reduce operating cost due to the recycling. He added this is very important and the elected officials needed to weigh the options.
- Mayor Pro Tem Lovette suggested the city mulch the dry trash (limbs and leaves). The city would have to purchase a mulcher and obtain a place to conduct the mulching. She reiterated that the recycling program was not initiated to make money for the city but to protect the environment and defray the landfill cost.
- Councilman Boston said the recycling and household garbage was both going to the landfill. The recycling is contaminated if one morsel of food is included in the cart.
- Mayor Hayes added that at one time the garbage truck was inoperable and the recycle truck had to be used to collect the routes.

At 7:26 PM a motion to exit the Public Hearing was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

The motion to eliminate the city's recycling and retrieve the citizens polycart was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.

Voting Favorably were Councilmen Boston, Underwood and Dodd.

Voting Unfavorable was Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

Polycarts will begin to be collected on Monday March 4th-March 15th, this information is to be disseminated immediately to the citizens. If a citizen want to retain the additional polycart it will cost \$11.00 monthly, the cost that is currently in place for the city.

3. City of Walthourville

Councilman Mitchell Boston

Reported that there are several nonworking vehicles at Public Works that he would like to be placed on GovDeals. This would generate some funds for the General Fund. He would like to post an old Grapple (Bulk Trash) Truck, a Garbage Truck, a Police Vehicle and an F-150 that has over two hundred and fifty thousand miles. The motion to list these vehicles On GovDeals for sale was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette

Stated the fence at Johnnie Frasier Park needs to be replaced. She is trying to obtain three quotes. She has contacted Hinesville Fence Company She stated she has been unsuccessful in obtaining bids because she was gotten bids before and the city took no action. Therefore companies are hesitant about providing quotes. She asked her colleagues if they wanted to

spearhead the project and obtain quotes she would welcome it. Everyone agreed for her to continue and possibly bring the quotes at the next meeting.

IX. Department Reports:

Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Reported the Shaw Road project was completed and the pipe was covered. The Water Team had to wait until the ground was dry. The city has a water tap to perform but the city will have to boar across the road. They are waiting to obtain clearance on the permits needed to perform the job. The city will post on Facebook and the city's website to inform the citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette suggested a digital sign be placed on Talmadge or Highway 84 to inform citizens of news in Walthourville. Mayor Hayes stated she was looking into that.

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported since the last meeting the department has answered 15 calls, 11 of those were medical. Five calls were in Allenhurst. The department has completed hose, ladder, and nozzle testing and this was done at under 17% of what was budgeted. They are developing an inspection preventative plan.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported 41 citations have been written, 10 of those were warnings. There was a shooting in Walthourville and it was an isolated event, the public was never in jeopardy. He gave an update on Animal Control and stated they would only respond if it was a vicious or sick dog. One of the city's Tahoe's need a Cadillac Converter.

X.. Governing Body Comments

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes reported that she was meeting with officials in Liberty County. She was glad that everyone is coming out. She stated the elected officials are working hard and listening to the citizens. The city will be holding Millage Rate Public Hearings on March 14th at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Police Department. She also requested to change the time of the final meeting on March 22 to 6:00 PM instead of 5:00 PM. The Mayor will be enroute from attending Newly Elected Officials Training in Tifton, Georgia.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette inquired about how the city can move forward with the Forensic Audit. She stated the citizens are requesting the audit be completed.

Councilman Boston stated, "we have just been addressed by the Water Expert that we aren't changing enough for water. Trash collection is not yielding the city revenue to break even. Citizen, Gail Ford asked, everytime we meet, we hear that we are being charged another fee, "how did we get here." Councilman Underwood stated we got here when the previous elected officials took revenue out of the budget. Mayor Hayes interjected and said we are not going to belittle the previous administration. She stated the audit will be done when the city gets some more funds. Attorney Moses stated pertaining to the Forensic Audit, it is in an unfunded mandate, no one has eliminated it, it has not been thrown out

Councilman Mitchell Boston Post 1
Reported a citizen on Kent Road is requesting a sign for a Autistic Child in the area. He asked about T-SPLOST Funds being used for speed bumps in subdivisions. Attorney Moses stated the city would not be liable if a citizen's vehicle was damaged because they traveled too fast going across the speed bumps. Attorney Moses further added that the city might be able to acquire G-MEG Funds for speed bumps and that he would research it.

Councilman Patrick Underwood Post 2
Reported that Congressman Buddy Carter was suppose to attend the meeting today. However, due to the student being killed at UGA he had to be in Athens. He plans to invite Senators Warnock and Ossoff to come to a meeting. The city will host an Easter Celebration on March 30th at Johnnie Frasier Park from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM. Donations are being accepted and no city funds will be used for this event. He and Councilmen Boston and Dodd will be attending New Elected Officials State Mandated Training in Athens on February 28th-March 1st.

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly Post 3
Absent

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette Post 4
Reported she had spoken about the fence. Also, she wanted to be made aware of any activity including Park Rentals for Johnnie Frasier Park. City Clerk Moss presented email notifications beginning in 2022-current as of February 24th that the Mayor Pro Tem was notified of the parks rentals.

Councilman Robert Dodd Post 5
No comments.

XI. Citizens Comments

1. Shirley Thornton asked if citizens could cancel their trash subscription with the city. If not, the citizens need to be given notice; please respect the citizens and let them know.
2. Gwendolyn Dykes spoke about the Fire Fee. She asked if the Fire fee was just for the Fire Department? She was informed yes. She doesn't mind paying, but everyone should pay. Also, this Fire Fee will only be effective through December because next year the millage rate will be intact. She was told yes by Mayor Hayes.

XII. Executive Session None

XIII. Adjournment: At 8:24 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

Shana T. Moss
Shana T. Moss, City Clerk

Sarah B. Hayes
Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting
March 4, 2024 @ 5:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Millage Rate	Mayor and Council
VI.	Adjournment	Mayor and Council

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2024 @ 5:00 PM at the Police Department

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgtee Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

III. The Invocation was given by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Millage Rate Mayor and Council

Mayor Hayes stated she will cancel the March 14th and 22nd Millage Rate Meetings. She stated she had a meeting with Mrs. Glenda Roberts, Tax Assessor for Liberty County and she was informed the city doesn't have to meet the March 31st deadline that they thought. If the city would have planned to collect in 2024 the March 31st, deadline would have been effective. She added in speaking with Mrs. Roberts she was told the following:

- In May the new tax digest values will come out.
- In June the appeal process will be conducted for any citizen who opposes.
- July 15th, the Tax Assessor takes possession of the digest.
- September 1, the Tax Commissioner receives the new digest.

Councilman Dodd stated "so we will collect taxes in 2025 since the meetings are being cancelled. He added he thought the city was setting a millage rate tonight.

Councilwoman Kelly added, "so Mayor from the information you presented we won't start collecting until April 2025?" Mayor Hayes stated yes. The Mayor and Council will revisit and set the millage during this year's budget preparation. Mayor Hayes additionally added that tax bills will not be sent out until the end of September.

Councilman Boston stated the city definitely needed a millage. The September 1st deadline for the tax bills to be sent out.

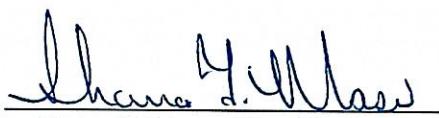
Mayor Hayes stated the city will have to continue the Fire Fee next year, since the millage will not be enacted immediately. Councilman Dodd stated that's not fair to the citizens. Councilman Underwood said he was prepared to set the millage tonight. Mayor Hayes stated she felt this topic needs more research and information and the city needs to start preparing the budget before accurate numbers can be obtained.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated if the Fire Fee is implemented it can only be used for the Fire Department. Mayor Hayes said, the Fire Fee must only be used for the Fire Department. This is being done to defray the expenses of the Fire Department and alleviate the General Fund.

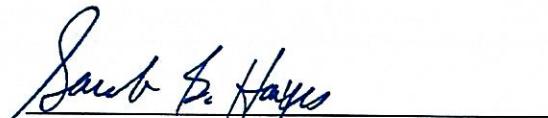
Councilwoman Kelly made the motion at 5:29 PM to suspend the discussion of millage rates and to cancel the millage meetings for March 14th and March 22nd. The second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 4-0. Motion Carried.

Members voting favorably: Councilmembers: Boston, Underwood Dodd and Kelly.
Member abstaining from not voting, Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
March 12, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
The Honorable Patrick Underwood
The Honorable Robert Dodd

The Honorable Mitchell Boston
The Honorable Bridgette Kelly

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

I.	Meeting Called to Order:	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call:	City Clerk
III.	Invocation:	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance:	In Unison
V.	Adoption of City Council Agenda:	Councilmembers
VI.	Adoption of City Council Minutes:	Councilmembers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• February 26, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes• March 4, 2024 Special Called Meeting Minutes
VII.	Presentation(s):	None
VIII.	Agenda Items:	None
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville Departments Mr. Patrick Golpin Chief Nicolas Maxwell Chief Christopher Reed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water Department• Fire Department• Police Department	

X.	Governing Body Comments	
	Councilman Mitchell Boston	Post 1
	Councilman Patrick Underwood	Post 2
	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Post 3
	Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette	Post 4
	Councilman Robert Dodd	Post 5
	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Office of the Mayor
XI.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
	<i>Comments limited to 3 (three minutes) only.</i>	
XII.	Executive Session	None
XIII.	Adjournment	Councilmembers
	When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:	
		(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

**City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes:

- February 26, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes: The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Members voting favorably were Councilmembers: Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.
Member opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.
- March 4, 2024 Called Meeting Minutes: The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Members voting favorable were Councilmembers: Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.
Member opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

VII. Presentation(s) None

VIII. Agenda Items None

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville Departments

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Reported the Water Department has received no complaints.

• Fire Department Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported the Fire Department has responded to 25 calls, 18 were medical. 13 were within the City Limits and 8 were in Allenhurst. The City of Walthourville is now a part of GMAG (Georgia Mutual Aid Group). The fire trucks were in the process of undergoing their annual pump testing. He stated the Ladder Truck was tested (today March 12, 2024) and passed. He further reported that the department had received 30 doses of Narcan from the State and the personnel is trained on administering the medication.

• Police Department Chief Christopher Reed

Reported the Department will have firearms qualifying training in April. He stated the department will have EEOC Training on Thursday March 14th at the Police Department and the Mayor and Council were invited to participate. He reiterated that dumping tires in the city was illegal and if caught citizens would be prosecuted. He stated that city street signs were going missing, he urged citizens not to remove or destroy signs.

X. Governing Body Comments

Councilman Mitchell Boston

Post 1

Reported on Public Works and stated recycle polycarts are being collected. He is still researching and speaking with companies to outsource the Sanitation component of Public Works. He reiterated the reasoning for collecting the recycle polycarts were to defray the cost of the landfill. He stated the city is losing roughly \$4,000 monthly going to the landfill. In January 241 tons were taken to the landfill. The bill was \$ 11,700.50 and the city collects \$7,500, this figure does not include the fuel going to and from the landfill and the vehicle maintenance expenses. The Mayor Pro Tem asked if there was a parameter on bulk collection, Councilman Boston stated no. He stated the solution would be a request for proposal to his colleagues on the amount(s) that would be collected.

Councilman Patrick Underwood

Post 2

Reported the Easter Celebration is on March 30, 2024 at Johnnie Frasier Park from 12:00-2:00 PM. This event is at zero cost to the city, donations have been given.

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Post 3

Reported she is working on two grants on behalf of the City; LMIG and a T-Mobile Communications Grant. She stated the city's 2021 and 2022 Audits are behind and to qualify for grants these audits must be current. She stated she will make contact with CPA, Matthew Caines.

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette Post 4
Reported she is still trying to obtain estimates for the fence at Johnnie Frasier. She and a company have been missing one another via telephone. One of the companies inquired about the style of fence for the park? They asked, "would the city be interested in a commercial grade fence or what is currently in use?" She has requested quotes on both.

Councilman Robert Dodd Post 5
Stated he had no report.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes Office of the Mayor
Thanked the citizens for coming out and the city is progressing. She and the council are working to bring revenue in for the city.

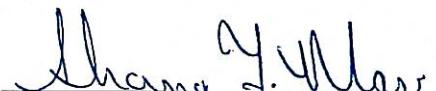
XI. Citizens Comments: (Comments are limited to 3 minutes).

1. Ronald Johnson spoke about the bulk trash and having to place the leaves in trash bags. He stated some residents could not bag their leaves. He also inquired about the \$31.60 Fire Fee that the Mayor and Council approved at the February 13, 2024 meeting. He was informed the \$31.60 has been placed on the March utility bill.
2. Franklin Vonita spoke about the Fire Fee. He said he had been to City Hall and the Fire Fee was already on his bill. He wanted to know if the Mayor and Council had finalized the process and if not, he was requesting his money back. Mayor Hayes stated she was awaiting an answer regarding the Fire Fee legalities and if it was determined the Fire Fee could not be charged, he would be issued a \$31.60 refund.

XII. Executive Session None

XIII. Adjournment: At 6:57 PM, the motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
March 26, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette The Honorable Mitchell Boston
The Honorable Patrick Underwood The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Robert Dodd

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

I.	Meeting Called to Order:	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call:	City Clerk
III.	Invocation:	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance:	In Unison
V.	Adoption of City Council Agenda:	Councilmembers
VI.	Adoption of City Council Minutes:	Councilmembers
	March 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes March 18, 2024 Called Meeting Minutes	
VII.	Presentation(s):	None
VIII.	Agenda Items:	
1.	LCPC	Ms. Lori Parks
	Business License Request Gotta Have Polish Nail Spa. The Business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway, Suite 15 and is zoned B-2(General Commercial District. The business owners are Jaleel and Ariana Edwards and they will be providing a full services nail salon. LCPC recommends approval.	
	Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the request.	

2. LCPC**Ms. Mardee Sanchez**

Final Plat for SIMCOE Investment Group (Mr. Charles Way). The Hamlet Townhomes. The location for the townhomes is Shaw Road and will consist of 46 lots of townhomes on 7 ½ acres.

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the final plat. LCPC recommends approval with standard conditions.

3. LCPC**Ms. Mardee Sanchez**

Preliminary Plat for Tibet Creek Investors, LLC (Mr. Daniel Dasher). Talmadge Road Subdivision. The subdivision will be located at Talmadge Road and Arnall Drive. The subdivision will consist of 24 lots, which will be single-family dwellings on 11 acres and is zoned R-2 (Two-family Residential District).

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the preliminary plat. LCPC recommends approval with standard conditions.

4. City of Walthourville**Mayor Sarah B. Hayes**

Keep Liberty Beautiful. Earth Day Proclamation. This is an annual event designating April 19, 2024 in Liberty County as Earth Day.

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve the Proclamation.

IX. Department Reports

- Water Department
- Fire Department
- Police Department

City of Walthourville Departments

Mr. Patrick Golphin
Chief Nicolas Maxwell
Chief Christopher Reed

X. Governing Body Comments

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Robert Dodd

Office of the Mayor
Post 1
Post 2
Post 3
Post 4
Post 5

XI. Citizens Comments**Walthourville Citizens**

Comments limited to 3 (three minutes) only.

XII. Executive Session**None****XIII. Adjournment****Councilmembers**

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood

Member Absent due to Work related Absence: Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present via telephone.

March 18, 2024 Called Meeting Minutes: The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 3-0: Motion Carried.

VII. Presentation(s) None

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC Ms. Lori Parks
Ms. Parks presented a Business License Request named Gotta Have Polish Spa. The business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway. The business will be a full services nail salon. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Boston.
Vote: 4-0; Motion Carried.

2. LCPC Ms. Mardee Sanchez
Ms. Sanchez presented the Final Plat for SIMCOE Investment Group, The Hamlet Townhomes. She stated there will be 46 units that will be townhouses and will be situated on 7 1/2 acres and they will

be located on Shaw Road. The history of the property consist of entails, at the end of 2019, the property was rezoned from R-2 to a PUD for 14 duplexes (28 units) and plans were approved shortly thereafter. The land was cleared for construction and the project was abandoned.

In April of 2023, an amendment to the PUD was approved to change the project from duplexes to townhomes. 775 feet of new street will be dedicated to the city and the city's utilities will include water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure. Mr. Jamie Stuckey of T.R. Long Engineering stated they recommended a fence be placed around the pond. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

3. LCP/C

Ms. Mardee Sanchez

Ms. Sanchez presented the Preliminary Plat for Tibet Creek Investors, LLC. The developer is Mr. Daniel Dasher and is known as the Talmadge Road Subdivision. The subdivision will be located at Talmadge Road and Arnall Drive. There will be 24 lots of single-family dwellings situated on 11 acres and they are zoned R-2. Each dwelling will have $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lots. The final plat will be presented to the Planning Commission on April 23rd. Councilman Boston inquired about sidewalks on Talmadge and he was informed that GDOT does not approve sidewalks on Talmadge due to the heavy traffic. The Mayor Pro Tem contrasted the Flemington GDOT Project that will entail sidewalks. She was informed that the Right-of-Way on Highway 84 is larger in Flemington than the narrowing on Talmadge Road. Mr. Stuckey stated there will be an HOA and they can place sidewalks on individual driveways. The motion to approve with the new additions of the HOA and individual sidewalks was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 4-0; Motion Carried.

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Presented an Earth Day Proclamation for Keep Liberty Beautiful. This proclamation designated April 19, 2024, as Earth Day in the City. The Earth Day Celebration in Liberty County will be held at Bryant Commons from 3:30 PM-6:00 PM.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville Departments

Water Department

Surville Departments
Mr. Patrick Golpin

Reported that there were no smelly water calls. The Fire Fee was placed on the March utility bills.

Fire Department

Captain Muhammad Bryant

Chief Nicolas Maxwell was attending training. Captain Bryant reported the Fire Department has responded to 19 calls. 12 of those were EMS and 3 were vehicle accidents.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported that Officer Carter had surgery and was recovering. Officer Michalowicz was attending training in Forsyth. The department will have firearm qualifications in the next few weeks. The Chancery

X. Governing Body Comments

Councilman Mitchell Boston inquired about the timeline for the Millage. He stated at the Mayor and Council Workshop they discussed dates for the Millage Hearings and the dates were not advertised in the newspaper. Attorney Moses stated, the Mayor and Council had a Special Called Meeting on March 18th, 2024 to establish the millage and he had less than 12 hours to publicize it with the Coastal Courier (newspaper). He stated it would have been impossible to get the information to the Coastal Courier by

noon the next day. He recommended the Mayor and Council set the date(s) at least a week later to give sufficient advertising time.

Councilman Patrick Underwood stated he wanted to address the citizens about the Fire Fee. He further added that it was not the City Hall's Team decision to implement the Fire Fee; it was the Mayor and Council; therefore, citizens should not be calling or coming to City Hall being rude and nasty. He stated he had been in City Hall and observed the behavior of some of the citizens. He stated if anyone had a problem they need to contact the Elected Officials. He personally showed a flyer with all Elected Officials contact information and stated to give them a call. He also reported about the Easter Celebration that will be held on Saturday March 30th from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM at Johnnie Frasier Park. This event is being sponsored by donations from citizens, some of the Elected Officials and Employees and Attorney Moses.

Councilwoman Bridgtee Kelly, reported that she is working on an LMIG Grant through GDOT. She has been working with the City's CPA to obtain a letter stating that the city's audits are in progress. She stated she also has the name of another CPA.

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette reported she attended an event at Johnnie Frasier Park that was held by the Car Club. She stated she was amazed that this event catered to the children. Also, she reported the cheapest quote she received for a commercial fence was \$64,000 and the most expensive was \$74,000 for a commercial grade fence. Also, Liberty County will be celebrating its 250th Birthday in 2026 and she is part of the committee. Currently, they are in the information gathering stage of the celebration. She further added, Liberty County School System will be having their Summer School Program and she encouraged parents to have their children to participate, as this enhances their learning during the summer months.

Councilman Robert Dodd was absent due to work commitment.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Thanked the citizens for coming out and being apart of their government. She stated that April 19th would be Earth Day and April 27th would be the Great American City Cleanup Day. She addressed the Fire Fee and the commencement of the City's Recycling. She stated the communication could have been better to inform everyone and she takes responsibility for that. "She added that no one wanted a fire fee, she didn't want one, but the city has more bills than we have money." The bills the city has are operating bills, she has reviewed and looked into the city's finances, and she vehemently stated there is no money missing or stolen. She agreed that the city will do a Forensic Audit when the city's fund balance increases.

Mayor Hayes also stated "the city's infrastructure is failing due to the installation of the pipes in 1974. The city is working on repairing the pipes, but we have limited manpower. The city contracts with a Water Specialist Company who conducts water sampling 365 days a year. We have to keep the water safe and there is a cost associated with everything." She addressed the landfill bills and the \$4,500 deficit the city is in monthly due to the Sanitation/Bulk Trash collection.

She stated the City Hall Team has been treated harshly due to the Fire Fee. Citizens have come in and called being nasty. "They have been subjected to being cursed out, one citizen used the "N" word when speaking to the employees. She said this is unacceptable and we all must treat one another civil. She agreed with Councilman Underwood, she encouraged anyone to contact the elected officials they are the ones who set the rules for the city.

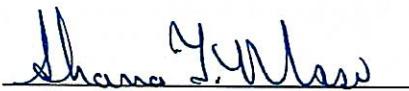
Councilman Boston stated he would be preparing a Request for Proposal for the city's Sanitation Collection.

XI. Citizens Comments: Comments are 3 minutes.

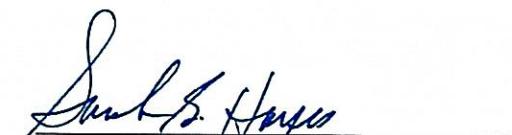
1. Gary Bradham stated he was opposed to the Fire Department. The city does not need a Fire Department. He is retired Firefighter for the Department of Defense. He stated the city was not notified. Councilwoman Kelly asked what do you want us to do? The information was placed on the city's Facebook Page and the City's Website. He said the city should have been placed in the newspaper.
2. Gwen Dykes stated she has lived in Walthourville all her life. She is confused. She would like a breakdown of what it cost to operate the Fire and Police Department. She is not opposed to the \$31.60 per month because she wants to keep both the Fire and Police Departments.
3. Clark Craven stated he lives in Long County, yet when he calls 911, he is routed to Long County. The Walthourville Fire Department did not respond because he is in Long County. City Clerk Moss stated the city checked the boundary lines and he is in Long County. \$31.60 has been credited to his account.
4. Regina Florence, stated with the Fire Fee, "can the Mayor and Council give everyone a little grace?" She said some citizens need some time to arrange their finances.
5. Charlie Richardson stated we should have implemented property taxes in Walthourville. He stated the city is growing and growth brings about cost.
6. Johnny Fullmore stated he did not receive any information or notification about the Fire Fee. He cannot stand not receiving information. He is retired from the military and the military keeps everyone informed.
7. Edna Powell stated she was surprised about the Fire Fee. This is a shock because of the financial hardship it poses.
8. Rema Bryant, spoke regarding the fire fee and the recycle trash can collection. She would like the city to send out information to the citizens.

XII. Executive Session, none.

XIII. Adjournment: The motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM was made by Mayor Pro Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

City of Walthourville

City Council

*Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd*

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

*"Always Moving
While Improving"*

City Administration

*Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Christopher Reed, Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney*

April 9, 2024

AGENDA

I. Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II. Roll Call	City Clerk
III. Invocation	Appointee
IV. Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V. Adoption of Meeting Agenda	Councilmembers
VI. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes (March 26, 2024)	Councilmembers
VII. Presentation(s)	
• City of Walthourville	Chief Nicolas Maxwell
VIII. Agenda Item(s)	
1. LCPC	Ms. Lori Parks
• Rezoning / Conditional Use for Ricter Taxes Etc. Inc. to rezone 1.756 acres for offices and and accessory dwelling units for the Gift of Love is here Corporation at 2267 Shaw Road. Business License Request for Ms. Dyani Gonzales.	
2. City of Walthourville	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
• City of Civility.	
3. City of Walthourville	Chief Christopher Reed
• Liberty County Sheriff's Department MOU.	
4. City of Walthourville.	Councilman Mitchell Boston
• Sanitation Bids.	
5. City of Walthourville.	Councilmembers
• Water Rate Increase.	
IX. Department Comments	City of Walthourville
X. Elected Official Comments	City of Walthourville
XI. Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XII. Executive Session	None
XIII. Adjournment	Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is needed, it is called for the following:

(Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate)

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. The Roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston	Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilman Robert Dodd.

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Councilman Robert Dodd.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

- VI. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Minutes from the March 26, 2024 meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette informed Mayor Hayes that she had not had an opportunity to read the minutes and she would like the minutes to be read. Mayor Hayes addressed City Clerk Shana T. Moss and asked for the minutes to be read. City Clerk Moss addressed the Mayor and stated she has never had to read minutes before and she was unclear on what to do. At that point, Attorney Moses stated he would fulfill the request to read the minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried. Opposed Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

- VII. Presentation:

City of Walthourville

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Walthourville Fire Department

Chief Maxwell presented the Life Saving Medal (medical) to Deputy Chief of Service Chance Tyler Chandler. Chief Maxwell presented DC Chandler with a commendation letter narrating the events that took place, the lifesaving medal as well as a Chief commendation coin. His mother, wife and daughter were present to pin the medal acknowledging the display of gratitude by the city. Chief Maxwell stated, "DC Chandler your actions will forever be immortalized in our city's history. A copy of the commendation letter will be available for view by the public at our Fire station. Chief

Maxwell narrated the story, which stated, “An engine company from Walthourville Fire Department, led by Deputy Chief of Service Chance Tyler Chandler, arrived at the Thompson Road location roughly 4 minutes after the initial dispatch. The Walthourville Fire Department raced up the dirt road to find a woman and her two children standing outside their home. The woman was clutching her throat, unable to speak, and showing visible signs of distress and panic, reaching out towards fire personnel in desperation for assistance.”

Deputy Chief Chandler wasted no time springing into action, standing behind the woman, placing one fist below the woman’s sternum, wrapping his other hand over his fist, and squeezing her tightly. Nothing happened. He did it again. Still nothing. But the third time, a piece of food flew out of the woman’s mouth and she began breathing again. She was very emotional and expressed her gratitude by saying Deputy Chief Chance saved her life.”

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Presented an exceptional employee acknowledgement to CDL Driver, Ms. Elizabeth White. She was surprised and teared up when Mayor Hayes read an email from Mrs. Wanda Willis commending Mrs. White’s excellence. Mrs. White had been collecting yard debris on St. John’s Road in Allenhurst when Mrs. Willis’s 7-month-old, 70-pound Labrador Retriever took off running. The woman fell so hard, “it stunned me and knocked the breath out of me.” When Mrs. White saw this, she ran to help Mrs. Willis. “My puppy began to jump on her because he thinks everyone wants to pet him. She didn’t swat him away but calmly told me that she’s afraid of dogs, which in my opinion shows great character and the ability to serve well under pressure.” I wanted to let you know that you have an exceptional and caring young lady in your employment. Please pass our gratitude to her, “Mrs. Willis said. Mrs. Willis is the wife of Allenhurst Mayor, The Honorable James Willis. Councilman Boston presented Ms. White with a bouquet of flowers and the Mayor presented her with a Certificate of Commendation.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Rezoning Petition and Conditional Use 2024-007-W. A petition was submitted by Ricter Taxes to rezone 1.756 acres +/- from AR-1 (Agricultural Residential) to OI (Office Institutional) for offices and accessory dwelling units for the Gift of Love is Here Corporation. The property is located at 2267 Shaw Road. Ricter Taxes is a small tax preparation office in Liberty County. The Gift of Love is Here Corporation is a 5013C non-profit. They help with domestic violence, disaster relief and homelessness. They venture into the community and give kits with personal care items for men and women, and they specifically target Motel 6 for their customers who may not have any personal care items. They host back to school events to support both students and teachers. Councilman Underwood spoke in favor of Mrs. Ricter and stated he knows

the work she does in the community. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

1B. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Ms. Parks presented a Business License Request for Puka Pantry, LLC. The owner is Ms. Dyani Gonzales. The business will create crafted items such as shirts, hats, jewelry, ornaments and arts. This business will cater to the Hawaiian, Pacific Islander ethnicity. Ms. Gonzales stated it is a struggle to find things from Hawaii, here in this area. There will be nothing onsite, it will be an online business and she will sell at Flea Markets. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

2. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Presented the Civility Concept and Resolution program that was created by GMA. GMA states that civility is more than just politeness. It is about disagreeing without disrespect and rudeness, it is seeking common ground as a starting point for dialogue about difference, listening past one's preconceptions and teaching others to do the same. Civility is the hard work of staying present even with those with whom we have deep rooted and fierce disagreement.

The Civility Pledge states, 'The way we govern ourselves is often as important as the positions we take. Our collective decisions will be better when differing views have had the opportunity to be fully vetted and considered. All people have the right to be treated with respect, courtesy, and openness. We value all input. We commit to conduct ourselves at all times with civility and courtesy to each other.

The city's meeting will be governed by the Rules of Decorum which is to foster an atmosphere of civil and courteous discourse, even and especially when discussing contentious topics, at all meetings held by the City of Walthourville.

A. Rules applicable to the Public

1. Each Speaker will be given 3 minutes during Public Comment.
2. Each Speaker will direct his or her comments to the Mayor.
3. Each Speaker will refrain from personal attacks, foul or abusive language, and will maintain a civil and courteous manner and tone.
4. Each Speaker will speak only to the agenda item under consideration.
5. Members of the audience will respect the rights of the others and will not create noise or other disturbances that will disrupt or disturb the meeting.

B. Rules for Mayor, Council, Committees and Employees

1. Members will conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all meetings.
2. Members will not speak until recognized by the Mayor to speak.
3. Remarks by members will be directed to the Mayor or Presiding Officer who will then direct the appropriate person to answer.

Any Violation of the Rules of Decorum may result in the violator being removed from the meeting and premises.

The motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

3. City of Walthourville Chief Christopher Reed
Presented the Liberty County Sheriff's Department MOU. Chief Reed stated there is no incentive in this MOU for LCSO. He stated the city has never received a bill from the Sheriff's Department. This agreement serves nothing to gain for Liberty County. This agreement will allow the city to have access to detectives, etc. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Underwood. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

4. City of Walthourville Councilman Mitchell Boston
Presented a Sanitation Bid. Councilman Boston stated the city needs to get out of trash business because the expensive overhead associated with this service is placing the city in arrears. He disseminated a bid for the Mayor and his fellow councilmembers. The Mayor and Council took no action, the elected body was asked to read the document and contact Councilman Boston if they had any questions and they will discuss this document during the work session and it will be placed on the agenda for action.

City of Walthourville Councilmembers
Water Rate Increase was tabled due to the Elected Officials needing a base rate question clarified. The motion to table was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

IX. Department Comments

City of Walthourville

Mr. Patrick Golphin Water Department
Reported the department was in the process of compiling the April Utility Bills. Councilman Underwood asked about the re-reads during this billing cycle. Mr. Golphin stated the city had 87 and these meters needed to be changed with what the city currently has or the city needs to upgrade to the digital meters. The previous Mayor and Council were briefed in June of 2023 about the cost of the digital meters which are \$873,000.00.

Mrs. Ivy Norris
Department

Finance

Presented the city's Financial Report from January 1st-March 31st, 2024. Included in this report were expenditures and revenue from the General, Water, T-SPLOST, and SPLOST Funds.

Chief Nicolas Maxwell
Gave the Department Statistics and stated the department's call volume was up.

Fire Department

Chief Christopher Reed
Reported the calls have increased, 29 reports were generated, and 66 traffic citations were given In June, Corporal Adams and himself will attend Training. Major Hooker will be attending Firearm Training which will result in him being a certified instructor. This will be a benefit for the city.

X. Elected Officials Comments

Councilman Boston, reiterated again about the city's Sanitation.

Councilman Underwood stated the City will be sponsoring a July 4th Movie Night. He stated it will be held at Johnnie Frasier Park and the movie will be The Lion King. Additional Information, along with a flyer will be forthcoming.

Councilman Kelly reported the information has been sent to GDOT pertaining to LMIG and we will wait and see if we are approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette, inquired about the status the Mayor and Council wanted to take on the Fence at Johnnie Frasier Park. Attorney Moses stated he had a contact and some information he would share with her. She also reported that she was on the committee for the 250-year Liberty County Celebration.

Mayor Hayes stated Earth Day will be held on April 19th, from 2:00 PM-6:00 PM at Bryant Commons in Hinesville. She encouraged everyone to come out and partake in the festivities. Reported the city will be sponsoring a Town Hall Meeting for all Walthourville Citizens on April 27th from 3:00-5:00 PM.

XI. Citizens Comments (3 minutes are given to citizens)

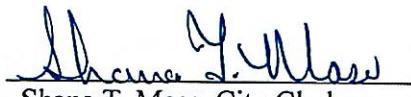
1. *Sylvia Boyd* spoke about the Meat Market and the buzzards that hover in the area due to the boxes that are placed outside. She added that the buzzards carry bacteria. Ms. Boyd stated she has expressed her concerns to the Mayor, Councilman Boston and Councilwoman Kelly. Mayor Hayes stated she has met with the Meat Market and the owner will be erecting a fence.

2. *Carrie Kent Anderson* spoke about the new developments coming into the area. She stated the citizens should be notified when a new development has plans to come to the

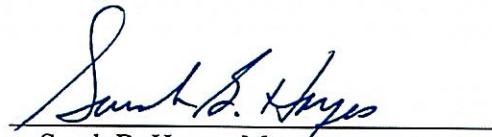
city. Mayor stated LCPC brings it to the Mayor and Council, and they also place a sign on the property that will be presented.

3. *Classie Kelly* stated she is opposed to having to bag her leaves.

XII. Executive Session	None
XIII. Adjournment: At 8:17 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.	Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

City of Walthourville

City Council

*Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd*

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

*"Always Moving
While Improving"*

City Administration

*Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Christopher Reed, Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney*

AMENDED AGENDA (04-20-2024)

April 23, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Adoption of Meeting Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes (April 9, 2024)	Councilmembers
VII.	Presentation(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Liberty CountyKeep Liberty Beautiful (Great American Cleanup)	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes Mayor Sarah B. Hayes Dr. Karen Bell
VIII.	Agenda Item(s) <ol style="list-style-type: none">GMA-GIRMA (Georgia Interlock Risk Management Agency) 2024-2025 Property and Liability Insurance Renewal.Sanitation Bids Discussion of Bid Proposal.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes Councilman Mitchell Boston
IX.	Department Comments	City of Walthourville
X.	Elected Officials Comments	City of Walthourville
XI.	Citizens Comments (3 minutes)	Walthourville Citizens
XII.	Executive Session	None
XIII.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is needed, it shall be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel and (3) Real Estate.

All meetings are held at the Walthourville Police Department

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Patrick Underwood	Councilwoman Bridgtte Kelly
Councilman Robert Dodd	

Member Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette.

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

III. Invocation was given by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Adoption of Meeting Agenda, the motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Dodd. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

VI. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion to approve the April 9, 2023 meetings was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

VII. Presentation:

I. Liberty County Solid Waste

Ms. Lori Wunderlich

Ms. Wunderlich stated she was asked by Mayor Hayes to make a presentation about the Solid Waste process and collection that Liberty County has adopted. She stated that Liberty County does not collect debris that is left by contractors, they must obtain a commercial dumpster. She added that the collection of debris is if it is a huge pile of leaves the driver will pick up 3 scoops (that is the maximum) and will move on to the next resident and each week they will collect 3 scoops until the debris is gone. Mayor Hayes stated the City of Walthourville request that the citizens bag their leaves, and Ms. Wunderlich said Liberty County does not require bagged leaves.

Ms. Wunderlich added, Liberty County does have convenience stations for the unincorporated areas of the county and Walthourville citizens cannot utilize this station. Councilwoman Kelly asked, "aren't we charged by the ton?" Mrs. Wunderlich replied, "yes, the city is charged \$48.55 a ton and for 13 days the city produced 5 tons. Mayor Hayes stated," Walthourville experiences problems with citizens being evicted and moving out and leaving lots of debris for the city to collect, what is an alternative? Ms. Wunderlich stated in Liberty County the tenants can rent a dumpster for \$97.55 a day and if sits idle for more than 2 weeks, the city will pull it.

Ms. Wunderlich further added that the county's landfill cost is expensive because they (Liberty) have to take the debris from Liberty to Jesup at a cost of \$15.80 per person and Walthourville collects trash for roughly 1500 citizens. The ABS Waste Representative, Mr. Charles Stewart was present, and he was asked about their collection, he stated that ABC waste does not collect bulk trash. Liberty County does not

collect, tires, concrete, gasoline or oil. The Mayor and Council took no action, and this topic will be addressed at their workshop.

2. Keep Liberty Beautiful

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Presented the Keep Liberty Beautiful Proclamation designating April 27th as the Great American Cleanup Day in the City of Walthourville. Mayor Hayes asked for volunteers and that everyone meets at City Hall at 9:00 AM. The motion to approve the Proclamation was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. GMA-GIRMA (Georgia Interlock Risk Management Agency)

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Presented the City's Property and Liability Renewal for 2024-2025. The city's insurance policy is effective May 1st of the current year through April 30th of the following year. The renewal that was presented was for May 1st, 2024 through April 30th, 2025. The rate for the 2024-2025 year is \$127,847.00 resulting in a \$17,455 increase from the 2023-2024 premium of \$110,395.00. The increase is due to the additional equipment and vehicles that were added.

Attorney Luke R. Moses stated he was concerned about the uninsured motorist clause and he wanted to advise the city to see if they could add \$100,000.000 coverage. The insurance renewal would be effective before the Mayor and Council convene again and the city did not want to be without insurance. Councilwoman Kelly stated she would like the city to seek additional quotes and see if a cheaper company could be obtained. Councilman Boston joined the sentiments of Councilwoman Kelly and stated he too would like to see additional quotes. City Clerk Moss stated GIRMA has been the most economical because their specialty is Municipal Government, and they are the premier agency. Attorney Moses and Mayor Hayes both said GIRMA is the best city insurance. Ms. Moss also stated the city is seven days into the city's current policy expiring and she would like to obtain input from the council on what companies they would like City Hall to obtain quotes from. She added the insurance process starts in December but due to the change in leadership the insurance renewal process was started in January when the new Mayor and Council began their terms. Chief Reed (Police Department), Chief Maxwell (Fire Department) and Public Works (Councilman Boston) participated in the process, obtaining, and submitting information for their various departments.

To address the problem of the city not having coverage due to the time (April 23) and the expiration (April 30th) and the Mayor and Council not convening and not having to call a Special Meeting Councilman Dodd made the motion to approve the renewal, adding the uninsured motorist coverage for \$1 million dollars if the premium does not exceed \$135,000.00 and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 2-2

Opposing the vote were Councilman Boston and Councilwoman Kelly.

The tiebreaker vote was cast by Mayor Hayes voting in favor of the renewal premium. The final vote was

Vote: 3-2 (Motion Carried). Approved.

The annual coverage for the city with the added \$1 million uninsured motorists will be \$130,727.00. The premium amount was given after the meeting and emailed to the Mayor and Council. Travelers Insurance was contacted for a quote, and due to the short time frame, they stated they would be unable to give a quote because they would have to physically come onsite and inspect the property and vehicles.

2. Sanitation Bids.

Councilman Mitchell Boston

Stated he presented the Mayor and Council with a Request for Proposal to bid the city's Sanitation Service out to a private company. Councilman Boston added that he is solely protecting the city and the city's

Sanitation is costly. Councilman Boston stated thus far the city's Solid Waste Bill with Liberty County is \$64,511.40 and within a few days the new bill will be generated.

Councilman Dodd asked about the IGA with Allenhurst because the City of Walthourville provides Sanitation Service, and what will happen to them? Councilman Boston stated he attended a Council Meeting for Allenhurst and he advised them of the potential that Sanitation could be bidden out and he said they (Allenhurst) were on board. Attorney Moses stated he (Walthourville) would need to review the city's IGA with Allenhurst to see the particulars of the agreement. The motion to vote to advertise the bid was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 2-2: Motion resulted in a tie.

Councilmen Dodd and Underwood stated they needed more additional information on Allenhurst before they could vote. Mayor Hayes had to cast the tiebreaker vote. She voted no, due to needing Allenhurst information on the subject.

Final Vote: 2-3: Motion Denied.

Voting in favor of advertising the bid were Councilmembers Boston and Kelly.

Voting in opposition of advertising the bid was Mayor Hayes and Councilmembers Underwood and Dodd.

IX. Department Comments City of Walthourville

1. Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

In the absence of Mr. Golphin, the report was given by Ms. Moss. She reported the Water Department installed meters at some of the new developments that are in the city. Water samples are collected daily and the department is doing well.

2. Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported since the April 9th meeting the department has answered 24 calls. The department conducted a two-day extraction drill and they are preparing for some interagency training with the other departments in Liberty County.

3. Police Department

Chief Christophe Reed

Stated he wanted to inform the administrative office hours for the Police Department are from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. He also advised the citizens and community to be proactive and that means if they see something to say something, and that they are not being snitch. Chief Reed further added that we are only as good as the community we serve. The Department will be sponsoring Gang Training, and the officers will have Firearm Qualifications at the end of this month.

He also addressed the speed limit on Shaw Road. The Speed Limit is 35 miles per hour. This was enacted in September of 2022, the speed limit was reduced from 45-35 and there are 6-8 signs on Shaw Road illustrating the speed limit. Since the last meeting on April 9th, the department has generated 26 reports.

X. Elected Officials' Comments

1. Councilman Mitchell Boston, stated he will continue to say, "the city needs to get out of the Sanitation Business due to the cost."

2. Councilman Patrick Underwood reported the city will have a Movie Night at Johnnie Frasier Park on July 4, 2024 beginning at 8:00 PM. The Lion King will be shown. He also inquired about the Spray Truck for mosquitos. Mayor Hayes added that the county sprays Walthourville, also. The city has sprayed before; however, the spray is very costly.

3. Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly, stated she had no report.

4. Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette was absent.

5. Councilman Robert Dodd stated Hurricane Season is approaching and Liberty County EMA will be conducting a presentation at a future council meeting.

XI. Citizens Comments (3 Minutes)

1. Pastor Ben Beasley, Pastor of Allenhurst Presbyterian Church commented on bagging the leaves. He stated he was unaware of the policy and some citizens are now burning the leaves and this poses harm. Some citizens are elderly and cannot bag their leaves. Councilman Boston stated he feels the leaves should not be bagged and it is unfair to the citizens. Mayor Hayes stated the bagged leaves policy was enacted by the previous Mayor and Council and she is aware the city cannot please everyone, but they have to do what is in the best interest of the city both financially and economically.

2. Mr. Hakeem Clearly, stated he lives on Arnall Road (dirt roadside). He stated the road is impassable when it rains, and it floods. There are no gutters and no ditch for the water to run off into. He stated he was told the developer Dryden Enterprises would be paving the road. He has resided there for about two years and have had to endure the road being in this condition.

3. Mrs. Cynthia Crocker stated the speed limit on Talmadge Road and how fast the vehicles speed. She states there are frequent accidents on Talmadge and could the speed limit be lowered to 35. She saw people racing and she watched the city's Sanitation Team be in harm's way due to the speeders. Councilman Underwood stated he agrees with her, but Talmadge is a State Road and is controlled by DOT. Mayor Hayes stated she will reach out to DOT.

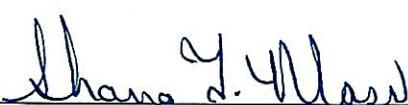
4. Mr. Clinton Cox stated he came to the meeting because he was confused about the cities. He stated he lives in Allenhurst, and he didn't know when the Mayor and Council would meet. Councilwoman Nicole Reed from Allenhurst was attending the meeting and she introduced herself and stated that the Mayor and Council of Allenhurst meet on the First Monday of each month at 6:00 at Allenhurst City Hall.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Hayes thanked everyone for coming out and being involved in the city. She stated the city cleanup would be on April 27th from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM and that volunteers were needed, and everyone should meet at City Hall. The Mayor and Council will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday April 27th, at 3:00 PM at Johnnie Frasier Park and everyone is invited to come out. Saturday May 4th, 2024, the city in conjunction with KLB will host a Recycle Event from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at City Hall, and that the Shred Truck will be in Midway at the Midway Complex.

Mayor Hayes and Councilman Underwood spoke about the meeting they had with a representative from Senator Warnock's office. They discussed the city's water infrastructure and obtaining sidewalks on both Dunlevie and Talmadge Roads.

XIII. Adjournment: At 7:36 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



**Mayor and Council Workshop
May 9, 2024
Walthourville Police Department
6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding

Meeting Cancelled due to Inclement Weather 05-09-2024

AGENDA

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Discussions	Mayor and Council
	1. Water Rate Study	
	2. Citizens Information	
	3. Public Works	
	4. Finance/Spending	
	5. Community Outreach	
	6. Town Hall Meetings	
	7. City Anniversary Celebration	
	8. Council Information	

This meeting is open to the public.



**Mayor and Council Workshop
May 14, 2024 @ 5:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

The Workshop was originally scheduled for May 9, 2024 from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. The workshop was cancelled due to Severe Weather.

The Honorable Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Presiding
AGENDA

I. Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II. Discussions	Mayor and Council
1. Water Rate Study	
2. Citizens Information	
3. Public Works	
4. Finance/Spending	
5. Community Outreach	
6. Town Hall Meetings	
7. City Anniversary Celebration	
8. Council Information	

City of Walthourville

City Council

*Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd*

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

*"Always Moving
While Improving"*

City Administration

*Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Christopher Reed, Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney*

Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda **May 14, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II. Roll Call to Order	City Clerk
III. Invocation	Appointee
IV. Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V. Adoption of Meeting Agenda	Councilmembers
VI. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes • April 23, 2024, Meeting	Councilmembers
VII. Presentation(s)	
VIII. Agenda Item(s)	
1. LCPC Business License Request for Ali Monde Studio.	Ms. Lori Parks
Public Hearing	
2. LCPC Zoning Permit for 125 Smith Road.	Ms. Lori Parks
3. City of Walthourville Water Rate Increase.	Mayor and Council
IX. Department Comments	City of Walthourville
1. Water Department	Mr. Patrick Golphin
2. Fire Department	Chief Nicolas Maxwell
3. Police Department	Chief Christopher Reed
X. Elected Officials	
Councilman Mitchell Boston	Post 1
Councilman Patrick Underwood	Post 2

City of Walthourville

City Council

*Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd*

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

*"Always Moving
While Improving"*

City Administration

*Shana T. Moss. City Clerk
Christopher Reed. Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell. Fire Chief
Dave Martin. Public Works
Luke R. Moses. City Attorney*

Elected Officials (Cont.)

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Post 3
Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette	Post 4
Councilman Robert Dodd	Post 5
Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Office of the Mayor
XI. Citizens Comments (3 Minutes)	Walthourville Citizens
XII. Executive Session	None
XIII. Adjournment	Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is needed it will be called for (1) Litigation (2) Personnel and (3) Real Estate.

***All Meetings are held at the Walthourville Police Department at 192 B Talmadge Road and
are open to the public.***

**City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

I. Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Bridgette Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

Councilman Mitchell Boston was present via telephone

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Andrew Ruberti was present in the absence of Attorney Luke R. Moses

III. The Invocation was given by Mayor Hayes.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Adoption of Meeting Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilwoman Underwood. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Minutes from the April 23, 2024, Meeting. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Underwood

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette

VII. Presentation None

VIII. Agenda Item(s)

1. LCPC Ms. Lori Parks
Ms. Parks presented a Business License Request for All Monde Studio, the business owner is Ms. Alissa White and the business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway, Suite 4. The business will be a full-service salon that offers hair color services, natural hair care, and hair extensions. The business operating hours will be Tuesday-Saturday from 8:00 AM-6:00 PM. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

2. LCPC Ms. Lori Parks
Public Hearing: The motion to enter the Public Hearing at 6:04 PM was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

Ms. Parks presented a Zoning Permit for 125 Smith Road for a new double wide manufactured home from Hinesville Home Center. The owner of the property is James E. Hendry and the applicant is James

The motion to approve the Water Rate Increase effective immediately for the June 2024 bill was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried

Members voting favorably were: Councilmen Boston, Underwood and Dodd.

Members opposing: Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette and Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly.

3. Water Rate Increase

Mayor and Council

A Water Rate Study was conducted (free of charge) by Georgia Rural Water Association Based upon their findings they recommended an increase to the city's Water Rates. Water Rates in the city have not increased since 2012. On February 26, 2024, Mr. Bill Powell with Georgia Rural Water made his initial presentation to the Mayor and Council. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she cannot support an increase because an audit has not taken place on the city's finances. Mayor Hayes stated the council voted to reappropriate the funds that had been set aside for the audit and no one is forfeiting the audit.

Councilman Boston stated he wanted to remind everyone that an audit has to be done and the CPA has not submitted the 2021, 2022, and the 2023 (which will be due on June 30). He added these audits have to be done, he is not concerned about a Forensic Audit, but a yearly audit is required.

Councilwoman Kelly inquired about the City CPA and Mayor Hayes stated, "we are looking at a CPA and I will have more information that will be forthcoming." She further informed the Council that CPA, Mr. Matthew Caines resigned effectively immediately. Mr. Caines presented the Mayor with an Engagement of Services letter in January, and the city would not execute the letter. Mr. Caines stated without a signed engagement letter he would not perform any work for the city because it would be operating out of the GAAP Guidelines and the city owed him money for his services.

The motion to approve the Water Rate Increase as proposed by Georgia Rural Water and effective immediately for the June 2024 bill was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried.

Members voting favorably were Councilmen Boston, Underwood and Dodd.

Members opposing were Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and Councilwoman Kelly.

Proposed Rate increased that will be effective in June 2024 are listed in red:

WATER AND SEWER RATE COMPARISON						
FOR THE CITY OF WALTHOURVILLE						
CURRENT RATES INSIDE			PROPOSED NEW RATES INSIDE			
	Water	Sewer	Total	Water	Sewer	Total
0 Gallons	\$ 18.00	\$ 23.35	\$ 41.35	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 46.00
0 Gallons	\$ 22.50	\$ 26.10	\$ 48.60	\$ 27.00	\$ 29.50	\$ 56.50
0 Gallons	\$ 27.00	\$ 28.85	\$ 55.85	\$ 31.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 67.00
0 Gallons	\$ 31.75	\$ 31.60	\$ 63.35	\$ 35.25	\$ 42.50	\$ 77.75
0 Gallons	\$ 36.50	\$ 34.35	\$ 70.85	\$ 39.50	\$ 49.00	\$ 88.50
0 Gallons	\$ 41.25	\$ 37.10	\$ 78.35	\$ 43.75	\$ 55.50	\$ 99.25
Gallons	\$ 46.25	\$ 39.85	\$ 86.10	\$ 48.25	\$ 62.00	\$ 110.25
Gallons	\$ 51.25	\$ 43.35	\$ 94.60	\$ 52.75	\$ 68.50	\$ 121.25
Gallons	\$ 56.25	\$ 46.85	\$ 103.10	\$ 57.25	\$ 75.00	\$ 132.25
0 Gallons	\$ 61.25	\$ 50.35	\$ 111.60	\$ 61.75	\$ 81.50	\$ 143.25

**WATER AND SEWER RATE COMPARISON
FOR THE CITY OF WALTHOURVILLE**

CURRENT RATES INSIDE

Zero Gallons	Water	Sewer	Total	Water	Sewer	Total	% Increase
1,000 Gallons	\$ 18.00	\$ 23.35	\$ 41.35	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 46.00	11.25%
2,000 Gallons	\$ 22.50	\$ 26.10	\$ 48.60	\$ 27.00	\$ 29.50	\$ 56.50	16.26%
3,000 Gallons	\$ 27.00	\$ 28.85	\$ 55.85	\$ 31.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 67.00	19.97%
4,000 Gallons	\$ 31.75	\$ 31.60	\$ 63.35	\$ 35.25	\$ 42.50	\$ 77.75	22.73%
5,000 Gallons	\$ 36.50	\$ 34.35	\$ 70.85	\$ 39.50	\$ 49.00	\$ 88.50	24.81%
6,000 Gallons	\$ 41.25	\$ 37.10	\$ 78.35	\$ 43.75	\$ 55.50	\$ 99.25	26.68%
7,000 Gallons	\$ 46.25	\$ 39.85	\$ 86.10	\$ 48.25	\$ 62.00	\$ 110.25	28.05%
8,000 Gallons	\$ 51.25	\$ 43.35	\$ 94.60	\$ 52.75	\$ 68.50	\$ 121.25	24.15
9,000 Gallons	\$ 56.25	\$ 46.85	\$ 103.10	\$ 57.25	\$ 75.00	\$ 132.25	28.17%
10,000 Gallons	\$ 61.25	\$ 50.35	\$ 111.60	\$ 61.75	\$ 81.50	\$ 143.25	28.27%
	\$ 66.25	\$ 53.85	\$ 120.10	\$ 66.25	\$ 88.00	\$ 154.25	28.36%
							31.65
							34.15

The base charge for zero gallons for water is \$23.00.

\$15.99 base, \$5.01 debt, and \$2.00 admin

The base charge for zero gallons for sewer is \$23.00.

\$16.22 base, and \$6.78 debt

The base charge for water for an account with multiple ERU's is the number of ERU's multiplied by \$21.00, the base and debt service. Then the \$2.00 will be added.

The base charge for sewer for an account with multiple ERU's is the number of ERU's multiplied by \$23.00, the base and debt service.

100 Gallons	\$ 66.25	\$ 53.85	\$ 120.10		\$ 66.25	\$ 88.00	\$ 154
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IX. Department Comments

City of Wathourville

1. Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Reported that meters were read on May 4th and bills were generated and sent to Spartanburg, SC. Councilman Dodd asked about the billing and the entire process was explained. Meters are read on the 5th of every month, if the fifth falls on a holiday or Sunday it is read the day prior. After the electronic meter reads the information is downloaded and reviewed and compiled by City Hall under the direction and supervision of Mr. Golphin. City Clerk, Shana T. Moss stated the bills are sent out within 3-4 days of the meters being read. After they are electronically read, they are generated as quickly as possible to get to the company to ensure the citizens obtain them before the due date on the 20th of the month. Late fee's are accessed on the 25th of each month will disconnects occurring the previous month. Bills are monitored weekly in City Hall and the citizens that are nearing disconnect are given a courtesy call.

2. Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported 59 calls were answered from the last two weeks. A tree fell on Busbee Road that the Fire Department assisted with traffic control. He stated the department took 2nd place in the 200 Club (Fallen Hero's) Tournament that was held on May 11, 2024 in Hinesville. They had teams from Savannah, Liberty, Hinesville and Long County participating. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked about a citizen that is AKA "Mr. Tank," donated vehicles for the department to use in their training efforts. Chief Maxwell, replied that, "yes he did, and it was greatly appreciated." She also stated she has not received but two emails about the Park Rentals for the year. City Clerk, Shana T. Moss stated she sends the email every time the Park is rented and that sometimes the Mayor Pro Tem will respond by typing, "Received." Ms. Moss gave the dates for 2024 of the emails that she sent about Park Rentals. The dates were: February 27, March 8, March 23, March 31, April 3, April 12, April 19, and May 10.

3. Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported that Officer Carter was recuperating from surgery and beginning therapy and rehab. He stated that Officer Carter is optimistic and is looking forward to rejoining the department. He stated his department is monitoring traffic paying close attention to Shaw, Talmadge, Highway 84 and Dunlevie Roads. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette gave accolades to the department on behalf of the Lovette, Baker and Martin Family for the aid the department rendered during the death of the late Mrs. Clara Roberts. Chief Reed stated that is the service they provide for any family, and they take pride in helping people in their darkest hour.

XI. Elected Officials.

Post 1-Councilman Mitchell Boston

Councilman Mitchell Boston, stated he still wanted to go on record as saying " the City of Walthourville need to be out of the Sanitation Business." The city still owes \$140,000 on the Garbage Truck. We are falling further and further behind in debt and there are no other cities around us that are responsible for their sanitation, they privatize it. Mayor Pro Tem, stated she thinks we should look into mulching the dry trash and allowing the citizens to use the mulch for their gardens. She stated that would help with the tonnage. Councilman Boston countered saying, "Eliminating dry trash is not going to fix it."

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked, "have you supplied the data to support the tonnage and can I get the data to support?" Councilman Boston said he ask about the bills monthly and the bills remain the same. Mulching will not cut the bill in half, nor will it cut it in half by 75% it might reduce it by 10%.

Councilman Boston wrote and read a detailed letter stating his stance on the city's Sanitation Department. His major concern is the city cannot afford to continue operating in the trash business. Councilman Boston requested his becomes a part of the City's Official Minutes. Please see the letter in its entirety.

"I am writing to present a crucial proposal for the privatization of our city's sanitation department, a move that will alleviate our financial burden and potentially enhance the quality of service for our residents. Currently, our sanitation department is facing significant financial challenges, which threaten the fiscal stability of our city. The annual cost of \$130,000 to the landfill, coupled with the escalating expenses of vehicle maintenance, insurance, fuel, and other liabilities, has resulted in our department operating at a substantial loss.

****Financial Burden:****

Our latest payment to the solid waste service was \$21,551.70, and our outstanding balance is currently \$54,138.44. With payments being made an average of every 90 days, our debt is projected to reach approximately \$85,000 by the next billing cycle. Additionally, we are burdened with a \$40,000 truck note, and our reserves have been nearly depleted. This financial strain will soon necessitate an increase in taxes, specifically through a higher millage rate, impacting all our constituents.

****Benefits of Privatization:****

1. **Cost Savings:**

*- **Elimination of Operational Costs:** Privatizing our sanitation services will eliminate the costs associated with vehicle maintenance, insurance, fuel, and liabilities. This will significantly reduce our financial obligations and help stabilize our budget.*

***Landfill Fees:** We will no longer be responsible for the \$130,000 annual fee to the landfill, substantial saving that can be redirected towards other essential services and infrastructure improvements.*

2. **Revenue Generation:**

*- **Franchise Fees:** By selecting a private sanitation company, we can negotiate a franchise fee that will generate additional revenue for our city. This new income stream will further strengthen our financial position.*

3. **Employment Security and Enhancement:**

- Our current CDL drivers will be offered employment with the chosen private company, often with better pay and benefits. This ensures job security for our employees while potentially improving their working conditions and compensation.

****Addressing Concerns:**

1. **City of Allenhurst:**- We currently provide trash services to Allenhurst without a formal agreement. They have the option to contract with the same private company we select or choose another provider, allowing them the flexibility to decide what best suits their needs.

2. **Constituent Costs:**

- Concerns about increased garbage bills can be mitigated by highlighting that most households currently use multiple trash cans while only paying for one. Privatization would standardize billing, ensuring fairness

3. ****Debt and Tax Implications:****

- Continuing with the current system will only deepen our debt, leading to inevitable tax hikes. Privatizing sanitation services will prevent this scenario, avoiding increased taxes and allowing us to manage our finances more effectively.

****Conclusion:****

Privatizing our sanitation services offers a pragmatic solution to our current financial woes, ensuring cost savings, generating revenue, and providing job security for our employees. This move will not only stabilize our budget but also enhance the quality of life for our residents by avoiding higher taxes and ensuring efficient waste management.

I urge you to consider this proposal seriously and support the transition to privatized sanitation services. Let us take a decisive step towards securing the financial health of Walthourville and providing better services for our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mitchell Boston

Walthourville City Council Post 1”

Councilman Boston said he would like to make a motion to advertise for bids for Sanitation. The second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried.

Members Voting Favorably: Councilman Boston, Councilman Dodd and Councilwoman Kelly.

Members Opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and Councilman Underwood.

Post 2-Councilman Patrick Underwood

Councilman Underwood said he has received a call concerning the Meat Market and the boxes. The owner was asked to place a fence around the area. He stated during his conversation with the owner the owner said some of the employees were leaving the garbage can open, they have been instructed to close the lid. Councilwoman Kelly asked about why he can't be mandated and given a time to have the fence erected. Mayor Hayes stated the City Attorney will give him a letter. Councilwoman Kelly said, "it seems we are preaching to the choir and the choir is not singing back when it comes to this fence." She stated he has money to put up a fence and Mayor Hayes said she can't count anyone's pockets. Councilwoman Kelly said, "she can't either, but she can count the cars that be in the parking lot.

Post 3-Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Councilwoman Kelly said she had no report.

Post 4-Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she has been working with a lady on fence pricing for Johnnie Frasier. The cost of replacing the fence for the perimeter of the park will be \$30,000 and it will be solid Black Aluminum.

Post 5-Councilman Robert Dodd

Councilman Dodd stated Hurricane Season begins on June 1st and it is predicted to be an active season. He will be conducting a brief presentation at a future council meeting. Liberty County had the kickoff Hurricane Awareness meeting on May 8, 2024. Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Chief Nicolas Maxell and City

Clerk, Shana T. Moss was in attendance. The presentation was conducted by Liberty County EMA, Director, Mr./Councilman Robert Dodd and Deputy Director, Mr. Thomas (Tripp) Dukes.

XI. Citizens Comments (3 Minutes)

Walthourville Citizens

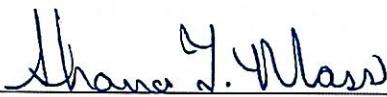
- Ms. Sylvia Boyd. Ms. Boyd stated her concern was the Meat Market again. She has been to the Mayor and Council previously. The buzzards fly around, and they are huge. She stated she researched buzzards, and they carry germs and diseases. The meat market does not close the lid and they need a tarp to keep the buzzards out. She cannot freely walk in her yard nor down the street for the buzzards. She asked how long it takes for the city to force the Meat Market to put up a fence. Mayor Hayes stated she has spoken with the owner, and he is in the process of trying to install a fence. The person who will install the fence works inside the market daily and in the evenings, he will work on the fence. Ms. Boyd stated this was unacceptable, and Mayor Hayes stated she feels they need some more time, and that they will make good on their promise of erecting a fence. Ms. Boyd stated, "you didn't tell me to wait when you were running for office and came to my house, asking for my vote." And she said, the Mayor takes up her three minutes talking. Mayor Hayes stated she was the Mayor. The Mayor said she has talked to the city's Municipal Court Judge and the city is in the process of trying to obtain a Code Enforcement Officer and anyone in Walthourville who violates this policy, will have to attend court in Walthourville and she has already been in communications with the Judge.

XII. Executive Session

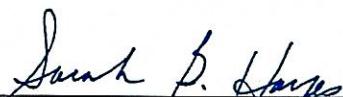
None

XIII. Adjournment: At 7:11 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was provided by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

City of Walthourville

City Council

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

"Always Moving
While Improving"

City Administration

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Christopher Reed, Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

AGENDA

May 28, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I. Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II. Roll Call to Order	Appointee
IV. Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V. Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI. Approval of Minutes (May 14, 2024)	Councilmembers
VII. Presentations:	
1. Liberty Transit	Mrs. Krystal B. Hart
2. Liberty County EMA	Councilman Robert Dodd
VIII. Agenda Items	Action Items
1. CPA Firm CKH Consulting, LLC.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
2. LCPC Business License Request for Tee-It-Up-Lawncare	Ms. Lori Parks
3. City of Walthourville ATT&T-First Net	Chief Christopher Reed
4. City of Walthourville LMIG	Mayor and Council
IX. Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X. Mayor and Council Comments	Elected Officials
Councilman Mitchell Boston	Post 1
Councilman Patrick Underwood	Post 2
Councilwoman Bridgette	Post 3
Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette	Post 4
Councilman Robert Dodd	Post 5
Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Mayor's Comments
XI. Citizens Comments (3 minutes)	Walthourville Citizens
XII. Executive Session	None

City of Walthourville

City Council

*Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd*

XIII. Adjournment

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

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While Improving"*

City Administration

*Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Christopher Reed, Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney*

Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed it will be called for Litigation, Real Estate or Personnel

All Meeting are held at the Walthourville Police Department.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

I. Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette (via telephone)
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

III. Invocation: Was given by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Approval of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Approval of Minutes: The motion to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2024 meeting was made by Councilman Boston and the second was provided by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 4-1; Motion Carried

Councilmembers voting favorably were: Councilmen Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.

Councilmember opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

VII. Presentations:

1. Liberty Transit

Mrs. Rachael Hatcher

Mrs. Hatcher stated Liberty Transit was in the process of compiling their Transit Development Plan (TDP) which is a strategic planning document that defines a community's public transit needs. The purpose is to solicit broad input, coordinate with other plans, explore community goals, define alternative courses of action and to develop systematic plans and monitoring programs. She also stated that the Transit Program was in the process of Public Outreach-they wanted to hear from the community, what is needed of the transit program? They are conducting community events, public surveys, council workshops, stakeholder committee meetings, HAMPO Presentations, website and social medial publications and a 30-day Public Comment Period.

Liberty Transit is trying to increase bus stops/service in rural areas to improve accessibility, how to utilize the bus system effectively, bus stop safety-dangerous intersections without lights or sidewalks, having regional connections to neighboring counties like Bryan and Chatham. The newest feature that will be offered by Liberty Transit will be Microtransit. Microtransit is a flexible transit service that uses a mobile application to schedule trips between a requested pick-up and drop-off location. This is similar to ride hailing services, they are offered within a specified zone and trips are shared, with the average wait time being reduced to 30 minutes. The key benefits of Microtransit are accessibility and being able to schedule and pickup/drop/off and location flexibility. Mayor Hayes stated she appreciated this information. The City of Walthourville does not have a lot of participation in riding Liberty Transit. This was informational only and required no action by the Mayor and Council at this time.

2. Liberty County EMA

Councilman Robert Dodd

Liberty County EMA Director, Councilman Robert Dodd gave a comprehensive presentation about Hurricane Season 2024. He said, the Hurricane Season begins on June 1st and lasts until November 30th. The World Meteorological Organization has identified 21 names for Hurricanes this year. The peak Hurricane Season is the month of September, and everyone should have a Hurricane Plan and Hurricane Kit at their homes that they can easily access. Tropical Cyclone Basics include the eye is the center where there is little to no wind/rain, the eye wall around the “eye” contains the strongest winds and the rain bands can extend hundreds of miles from the eye and contain strong winds, heavy rain and possible tornadoes.

There are two Evacuation Zones in Liberty County, Zone A and B. The City of Walthourville is in Zone B. Councilman Dodd referenced the Hurricane Registry that is offered by GEMA (Georgia Emergency Management Agency). The Hurricane Registry is for individuals with functional access or medical needs, the number is 1-833-243-7344. He also stated if an evacuation order is issued, please adhere. When winds get as high as 45 miles per hour, Public Safety will not come out. When an evacuation is issued, and the county allows re-entry the Sheriff will authorize who can return and the levels, such as Public Safety and persons with re-entry passes.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. CPA Firm

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Hayes introduced Mr. Roger Nixon of CKH Group Financial LLC. He is the Vice President of Business Development, and his firm works with many municipalities in Georgia. Accompanying Mr. Nixon was CKH Group Partner, Mr. Eon van Wyk. This firm is in Atlanta, Georgia. He stated if hired his firm would come onsite and work with the city staff to perform the work. He is also confident that some of the work can be performed remotely. He stated he was in the city on May 24th and met with Mayor Hayes, Ms. Moss and Mrs. Norris, and he was optimistic and looking forward to working with the city.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked if this was the only company the city was considering because we (city) needed to have three bids. Attorney Luke R. Moses responded saying, “the city is not required to solicit bids because we are not buying equipment, this is for

professional services-a service that was already intact, and bids are not required." The Mayor and Council waived taking action because several members wanted to do additional research. This item will be voted on at the June 11, 2024 meeting. City Clerk Moss suggested Mr. Nixon and Mr. Wyn could phone in for the meeting instead of making the long trip from Atlanta and Mayor Hayes agreed that would be feasible.

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Presented a Business License request from For Tee-It-Up Lawncare, the business owner is Chad Knudson. The property owner is Mrs. Donna Adams (she was present). The business will be located at 1163 Talmadge Road and is zoned AR-1. The applicant will be using a room in the home for an office to operate the lawn care business only. Mrs. Adams stated Mr. Knudson would only have a truck and a trailer at the site and he would go to customers homes. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. City of Walthourville

Chief Christopher Reed

AT&T/First Net. Chief Reed presented the city had recently participated in a presentation with First Net and AT&T. First Net offers radios and this will be beneficial for the city. Recently several employees have been verbally assaulted by citizens and being on trucks they have no communication, and this is a safety hazard. The cost for the radios will be .99 cents. Also, AT&T will have a tower located in the city in 2025. Currently, the city uses Verizon for cell service and there has been subpar service with dropped calls and dead service areas. Chief Reed said this is a hindrance to the Officers if they cannot use their phones. AT&T will allow \$350.00 for each phone and every city employee who has a phone will be able to retain their number. They will have a choice of an Android or a I-Phone. He stated that AT&T will come onsite and perform the onboarding with each phone user, and everyone will be given a time to come in and have their phone converted. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.

Councilmembers voting favorably were: Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.

Councilmember opposed: Lovette.

4. LMIG

Mayor and Council

Mayor Hayes reported the city would apply for LMIG (Local Maintenance Improvement Grant) through GDOT. LMIG Funds can be used for road improvements. The deadline for the LMIG application is June 15th, and she has asked City Hall to work on the grant. Mayor Hayes and Councilwoman Kelly suggested the city repair Griffin Road. Councilwoman Kelly stated Turnipseed Engineering has compiled the measurements for Griffin Road and she is in agreement that this is the best option for the city. The motion to approve to submit the LMIG Application for Griffin Road repairs were made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

IX. Department Reports
1. Mr. Patrick Golphin
Reported that the Water Rate Increase will be visible on the June bill. City Hall is working on installing the new rates. Meters will be read on June 6th. Correspondences are being given to citizens about the Water Rate Increase when they come to pay their bill. He also stated the information is also on the city's Facebook page and city website.

2. Chief Nicolas Maxwell
Reported the Fire Department have been busy answering calls, both fire and medical. He also stated the Fire Department has partnered with a local dealership that will provide a van for the city's use in the event of a Hurricane Evacuation.

3. Chief Christopher Reed
Reported the city will have De-Escalation Training on June 3rd from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at the Police Department. This training stems from citizens who have been aggressive with city employees. The department has generated 29 reports since the last meeting and has responded to two vehicle crashes.

X. Mayor and Council Comments Elected Officials

Councilman Mitchell Boston stated he was still in support of the Request for Proposal Bids for the privatization of the city's Sanitation Services.

Councilman Patrick Underwood reported he was proud he has received the city's bills that he has asked for. He mentioned Movie Night at Johnnie Frasier Park on July 4th, the movie that will be shown will be The Lion King.

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly reported she is happy the city will be applying for an LMIG Grant for the repair of Griffin Road.

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette reported that she has been in contact with Brooke from Hinesville Fence Company. She is proposing that the fence be erected around the perimeter of the park and the cost estimate is between \$30,000-\$40,000.

Councilman Dodd reiterated the importance of having a Hurricane Plan. He stated now is the time to plan not when a Hurricane is approaching.

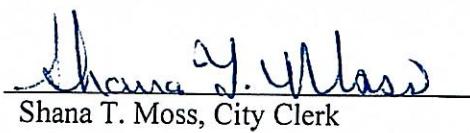
Mayor Sarah B. Hayes stated safety training is essential for the employees. Several employees have encountered citizens who have exhibited aggressive behavior toward them. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she has received several calls from citizen Sylvia Boyd. Ms. Boyd has had ongoing problems with the buzzards flying from the Meat Market. Mayor Hayes stated she is still in communication with the Meat Market about erecting a fence.

XI. Citizens Comments Walthourville Citizens
1. Ms. Gwen Dykes-stated Councilman Boston has stated Sanitation cost is expensive. The city has the people in place to perform the work, she's not certain outsourcing is the best idea.

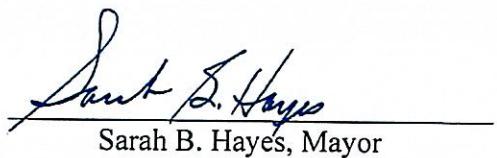
2. Mr. Hakeen Cleary-stated he resides on Arnall Drive (dirt roadside) and he would like to ask the city to dig a little trench so the water will run off into the ditch instead of standing in the road.

XII. Executive Session None

XIII. Adjournment: At 7:52 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote:5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

City of Walthourville

City Council

*Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd*

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

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While Improving"

City Administration

*Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Christopher Reed, Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney*

AGENDA

June 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes (May 28, 2024)	Councilmembers
VII.	Presentation: 1. Keep Liberty Beautiful	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
VIII.	Agenda Items 1. LCPC Business License Request for Success Auto Detailing Uniting Communities, LLC.	Action Items Ms. Lori Parks
	2. City of Walthourville Liberty County Fire Services IGA	Chief Nicolas Maxwell
	3. City of Walthourville CKH Consulting, LLC., City CPA Firm.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
	4. City of Walthourville Citizen Notification.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X.	Mayor and Council Comments	Elected Officials
XI.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XII.	Executive Session	None
XIII.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed it will be called for Litigation, Real Estate or Personnel.

All Meetings are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the public.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes at 6:00 PM.

II. Roll Call: The Roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston (phone)
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Walthourville Citizen Ms. Jane Chatham.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Approval of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Approval of Minutes from the May 28, 2024 meeting was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Underwood. Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Councilmembers voting favorably: Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.
Councilmember opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

VII. Presentation

1. Keep Liberty Beautiful

Stated the presentation would be made at a later date.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

VIII. Agenda Items.

1. LCPC

Presented a Business License request for Mr. Justin Peek. Mr. Peek will be operating Success Auto Detailing from 42 Setter Lane. The property owner is Ms. Jennifer L. Bable. Mr. Peek will use a room in the home as an office to book appointments. All vehicle detailing will take place off site. The property is zoned R-8 (Single-family Residential). The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was provided by Councilman Underwood.

Ms. Lori Parks

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. City of Walthourville

Presented the IGA with Liberty County Board of Commissioners (Fire Service). The execution of the IGA is for the City of Walthourville to receive the \$16,500.00 that the County pays the city to service the unincorporated

area (State Route 119) of Liberty County. The period covered is from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. The motion to approve and execute the IGA was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Hayes stated the potential CPA firm CKH Consulting was present at the May 28, 2024 meeting and no action was taken because several members of council wanted to research the firm.

Mr. Roger Nixon, CKH Consulting, Vice President of Business Development participated in the meeting via telephone. Mr. Nixon stated his firm would come onsite and perform the work. During the time the CKH Firm would be in the city, the City of Walthourville would not incur any charges for lodging, the lodging would be handled by CKH. He stated some of the work could be conducted remotely. Councilwoman Kelly voiced concerns about the city's delinquent audits from 2021, 2022 and 2023—is not due until June 30, 2023. Mr. Nixon stated his firm would make the audits a priority. Councilwoman Kelly asked if they would be done in a month and a half. Reluctantly, Mr. Nixon stated they would try, they will have to assess the information, but he thinks all three are doable in ninety days. The motion to approve the CPA Firm of CKH was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.

Councilmembers Voting Favorably: Councilmen Boston, Underwood, Dodd and Councilwoman Kelly.

Councilmember Opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated the City of Walthourville has been discussing ways to disseminate information to the citizens. The city has placed information in the Coastal Courier (newspaper), the City's Website at www.cityofwalthourville.com and the city's Facebook page (City of Walthourville). She stated "she doesn't have anymore solutions as the city has done its due diligence in providing updates." The city has partnered with VC3 to provide notifications to the citizens. The citizens will have to sign up on the city's website to obtain the alerts. City Clerk, Shana T. Moss reported the site is currently inactive, the software company is building the platform. When the platform is completed the Elected Officials and City Employees will be sent the information to "test," the site to ensure that it is active and sending alerts. The citizen must input either their email address or cell phone number into the notification tab that will be placed on the city's website. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated the city needed to inform the citizens today about the program and give them a date when they can sign up. Ms. Moss reiterated that the city could not give a definitive date because the site is still being built. Mayor Hayes stated this is the final measure that the city will take to inform the citizens. This was an informational update only; no action was needed.

IX. Department Reports

1. Mr. Patrick Golphin

Water Department

Reported that meters were read on June 6th and the new water rate that was approved by the Mayor and Council would be enacted on this bill. Also, the city is still in need of meters that need to be replaced.

2. Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Fire Department

The Chief gave the Department's Statistics for the past two weeks. The department has answered 56 calls for service, 40 were medical, 4 traffic accidents, 7 fire alarms, 3 fires and 4 miscellaneous calls.

3. Chief Christopher Reed

Police Department

The Chief gave the Department's Statistics for Tuesday May 28, 2024 through Tuesday June 11, 2024. The department issued 69 citations, consisting of 41 warnings, 4 vehicle crashes and 27 incidents with reports. The Mayor Pro Tem raised the question about a citizen being issued a ticket for parking at Johnnie Frasier Park. Chief Reed stated he was familiar with the situation and the person that is being referenced is a repeat offender of being parked in the park. Numerous, Officers have warned the citizen that Johnnie Frasier is a car free park. The Mayor Pro Tem stated some cars are allowed to park and some aren't. Chief Reed added that oftentimes the city vehicles

plus public Safety vehicles park inside the gate. Mayor Hayes, Thanked the Chief and the Officers and told them to continue doing their jobs and that they are doing a good job.

X. Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman Mitchell Boston reported the city was still proceeding with the Request for Proposal for outsourcing the Sanitation Department.

Councilman Patrick Underwood reminded everyone "Popsicles in the Park," will be held on Friday June 14th from 12-2 at Johnnie Frasier Park and everyone was welcome.

Councilwoman Kelly reported the city has moved forward and submitted the LMIG Grant application that is administer through GDOT.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she had no report.

Councilman Robert Dodd stated Hurricane Season began on June 1st, please prepare and have a plan.

XI. Citizens Comments

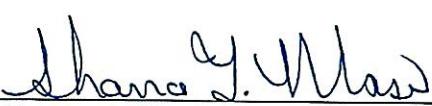
1. Ms. Gwendolyn Dykes stated she opposed sending any services out to a contractor. She stated maybe the city can increase Sanitation Cost/Bulk Trash. She hopes with the Fire Fee and Water Rate increase this will help the city. She asked the Mayor and Council to take into consideration that Walthourville has Great Employees, and we have our own equipment.

2. Mr. Michael Talley stated he has some issues with Public Safety. They sit in the median lane on 84 and this poses a problem if a citizen is trying to change lanes. He asked about the easements on Dunlevie and the lack of sidewalks.

3. Mr. Hakeem Cleary commented on the cement residual that is left on Highway 119 and 84.

Mayor Hayes had no comments.

XIII. Adjournment: At 6:44 PM the motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Underwood. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

City of Walthourville

City Council

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

"Always Moving
While Improving"

City Administration

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Christopher Reed, Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

June 25, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes (June 11, 2024)	Councilmembers
VII.	Presentation: City of Walthourville	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
VIII.	Agenda Items: 1. LCPC Boundary Hall Preliminary Plat.	Ms. Mardee Sanchez
	2. LCPC Business License Request for New Creation Construction.	Ms. Mardee Sanchez
	3. City of Walthourville Johnnie Frasier Park.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X.	Mayor and Council Comments	Elected Officials
XI.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XII.	Executive Session	None
XIII.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Real Estate or (3) Personnel.

All Meetings are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

**City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present:

- III. The Invocation was rendered by Ms. Gwen Dykes.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Approval of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette:
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.
- VI. Approval of Minutes: The motion to approve the June 11, 2024 minutes was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Councilmembers voting favorably were: Councilmen Boston, Underwood, Dodd and Councilwoman Kelly.
Councilmember always opposing: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.
- VII. Presentation:

City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

City of Walthourville Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Keep Liberty Beautiful and a yard stake
acknowledging the city's participation. She stated the City of Walthourville is present
and actively engaged in cleanup, recycle fairs and other events hosted by Keep Liberty
Beautiful.

Liberty Transit

Ms. Natasha Chatham and Ms. Ernestine Williams

Liberty Transit Ms. Natasha Chatman and Ms. Ernestine Williams. Presented the newest service offered by Liberty Transit which is Paratransit. Liberty Transit ADA Paratransit provides services to individuals who are unable to use the fixed-route bus service because of a disability. Liberty Paratransit take appointments 24 hours a day. Liberty Transit Paratransit provides shared ride, curb to curb service to persons determined to be "ADA eligible" for trips that cannot be made using the fixed

route service. A customer may use the fixed route service for some trips and at other times they may need to use the paratransit system. Ms. Chatham provided packets that will be available at City Hall for citizens to pick up.

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Ms. Mardee Sanchez

Presented the preliminary plat for Boundary Hall Subdivision. The Developer is Liberty Properties and Holdings, Co, LLC and the engineer is T.R. Long Engineering. Boundary Hall will consist of 111 lots, single family homes that are zoned PUD. The homes will be located on Hardman Road in Walthourville.

There will be 53 Standard Lots which will include 6,000 square feet, of which will be the minimum Gross Lot Area, the minimum usable lot area will be 4,500 square feet. There will be 58 Garden Lots which will include 4,500 square feet of minimum gross lot area with a minimum usable lot area of 4,000 square feet.

The city will be dedicated to new streets (5,466 feet) and the subdivision will obtain water and sewer from the City. Councilman Dodd asked will the retention pond be fenced. Engineer Trent Long stated yes. Mayor Hayes stated a citizen contacted her about the road leading into the property and he (Lloyd Busbee) wanted to ensure that it remained open and passable due to his elderly parents residing about two miles back into the property. Mr. Busbee was present and stated that he was concerned "with the construction and heavy equipment the road would be constricted, and emergency personnel might not be able to answer a call if his parents required emergency services." Mr. Trent Long stated this could be accommodated, Developer, Mr. Claude Dryden was present in the audience, and he also stated this was a reasonable request that could be accommodated.

Councilwoman Kelly asked, "if the city had enough water and pumping capacity to meet the demands of these home," Mr. Long stated yes. Mayor Hayes asked LCPC to include special conditions to keep the road passable and scraped while under construction. Councilman Dodd made the motion to approve with standard conditions as set forth by LCPC and the Special Conditions of keeping the road passable and scraped. The second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

2. LCPC

Ms. Mardee Sanchez

Presented a Business License Request for New Creation Construction. The business owner is Mr. Joseph M. Hudson and will be located at 144 Vandiver Road. The owner is requesting to use a room in the residence as an office to operate the construction company. The business will consist of handyman work such as painting, remodeling, and construction work that will be done off of the premises. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

IX. Department Reports

Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Mr. Patrick Golpoff
Reported the city had received several calls of smelly water. Attorney Luke Moses read a statement from EOM Regional Director, Mr. Charlie Heino. Mr. Heino and his team are responsible for the city's water sampling and system. The statement from Mr. Heino in its entirety is listed below and will become an official part of the minutes.

"Ms. Moss.

Since we took over in September of 2022, we have checked the wells without fail every day of the year including holidays. One of our trained techs physically goes to the well sites and verify operation, disinfection, and chemical levels. Since we started, we have performed 662 chlorine residual tests to verify that a safe and permitted level of chlorine is maintained in the system. In the past 6 months, we have performed 23 state required bacteriological/ E. Coli tests and all results were NEGATIVE for bacteriological contamination. Since 2019, 40 Lead samples have been taken and show an average lead level of 1.6 PPB (Parts per Billion). The EPD limit is 15 PPB, so we are well below the required state limit.

This past month the EPD conducted a site visit and took samples from two sites in the system and found no issues with water quality. The only deficiencies found were specific items at the well such as a chemical containment pad for fluoride, a scale, and chlorine switchover unit, etc. None of the items noted in the letter (attached) influence water quality in any way, and they will be completed or be in process to be completed this week.



Charlie Heino
Regional Director. “

Attorney Moses stated the city's water was safe. Does the city have aging infrastructure? Absolutely, but the city's water system is governed by EPD and if the water was found to be unsafe, the city would lose its license.

As a note about the water, the city's water problem did not happen immediately. In 2012 G. Ben Turnipseed Engineering, Mr. Ben Turnipseed advised the Mayor and Council at that time that they needed to take action, and make upgrades/repairs to the Water System or the city would encounter water problems in the future. The 2012 Council took no action

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported the department had answered 36 calls, 25 of which were medical. As of June 30, 2024 the City of Walthourville will not answer calls into unincorporated Liberty County (Highway 119 area). The county is opening a Fire Station that will encompass that area. Phase I of the Fire Hydrant Testing is complete.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported the department responded to 53 calls of service, 5 vehicle crash and 10 citizens were arrested. He further elaborated on the department's Diversion Program. The diversion program allows citizens that receive traffic citations to obtain a reduced fine, and it gives them 60-90 days to pay. He also reported that Corporal Adams and him were in instructor school in Savannah. This class will help the department tremendously because the class will be able to be taught in-house.

X. Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman Mitchell Boston stated the Sanitation Bid is out for the privatization of the Sanitation Department.

Councilman Patrick Underwood stated to remember the city's Movie Night on July 4th at 8:00 PM (time has changed to 8:30 PM since the meeting) at Johnnie Frasier Park. The movie that will be shown is The Lion King. He also stated perhaps the council needs to revisit the policy on bagging leaves. He states he thinks the leaves should be collected bagged or unbagged. Several councilmembers chimed in that this should be revisited also.

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly stated she had no report.

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette asked, "did we apply for Grants by Senators Ossoff and Warnock?" Mayor Hayes, asked, "what grants?" The Mayor Pro Tem stated, "the city left money on the table because grants were available." She was asked what type of grants and Mayor Hayes reminded her the city's audits were lapsed; therefore, the city did not qualify to receive any grant funds. She also urged the city to look into FLOST (Flexible Local Option Sales Tax). Mayor Hayes stated she was aware of this tax as well as TSLOST that will be presented for renewal.

Councilman Robert Dodd stated, "the weather is extremely hot, drink plenty of fluids. He also urged everyone to be mindful of the signs of overheating.

XI. Citizens Comments (citizens are allotted 3 minutes)

1. Alma Wells of 84 Jones Court stated her concern was her Water Bill. Her bill went from \$60.00 to \$ 171.00. She said the fire fee was added and now the water has increased. Mayor Hayes stated she would contact her to have a meeting with her at City Hall. (City Hall has attempted to reach out to Ms. Wells to schedule this meeting and neither phone numbers that Ms. Well has on her

Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission

100 Main Street, Suite 7520
Hinesville, Georgia 31313
Phone: 912-408-2030



Jeff Ricketson, AICP

Executive Director

June 26, 2024

Trent Long, PE
TR Long Engineering
114 North Commerce Street
Hinesville, GA 31313

**Re: Preliminary Plat Approval
Boundary Hall**

Dear Trent,

As you are aware, last night the Walthourville City Council approved the preliminary plat for this 111-lot subdivision. This approval included LCPC's standard conditions and the following special condition:

The road that is used for access by an adjacent property owner shall be kept open and passable during construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mardee Sanchez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mardee" on the top line and "Sanchez" on the bottom line.

Mardee Sanchez, PE, CFM
Engineering Director

cc: Claude and Luke Dryden (owner)
Mayor Sarah B. Hayes (City of Walthourville)

account at City Hall are working numbers. City Hall has mailed a letter to Ms. Wells, asking her to contact City Hall to schedule the meeting and update her account.

2. Patricia Green stated her comment was directed on the water also. She stated she was a former member of Council (served from 1983-2020) and she wanted to know if the city would be providing water to the residents on Tibet Road in Long County. And with the new developments coming into the city, does the city have capacity for sewer? Mayor Hayes stated, "no the city will not be providing water to Long County and yes the city has the capacity for sewer consumption."

3. Terry Emmons of 51 Carrie Street had a complaint about the water. She states she experiences discolored water from her bathroom about 3 times a year. She stated the water is rusty, and she experiences most of the problems after it rains. She stated she has experienced problems three times in 2023. Mayor Hayes stated she would be scheduling a meeting with her about her concerns and problems. She also added she heard the information that was read about the water being safe but she was still concerned, because she did not want a Flint, Michigan situation here. Mayor Hayes stated, "the City's water is tested daily and sent to EPD, if there was any indication of unsafe water EPD would be involved."

XII. Executive Session

None

XIII. Office of the Mayor

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

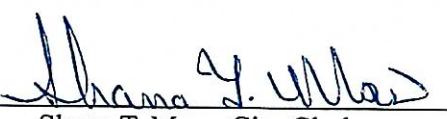
Reported the city's citizen notification system. She stated citizens could go to the city's website at www.cityofwalthourville.com and select the tab for City Updates. Upon depressing the tab, citizens will input their email address and telephone number and they will receive all updates. Mayor Hayes stated she has signed up and she is receiving alerts.

XIV. Adjournment

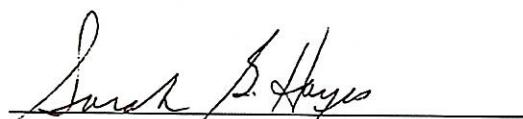
Councilmembers

At 7:33 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

City of Walthourville

City Council

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

"Always Moving
While Improving"

City Administration

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Christopher Reed, Chief of Police
Nicholas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

July 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I. Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II. Roll Call	City Clerk
III. Invocation	Appointee
IV. Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V. Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI. Approval of Minutes (June 25, 2024)	Councilmembers
VII. Presentation	None
VIII. Agenda Items:	
1. LCPC Public Hearing. (Rezoning Petition 2024-033-W).	Mr. Jeff Ricketson
2. LCPC Business License Request for STR 8 Drop Seafood Kitchen.	Mr. Jeff Ricketson
3. LCPC Business License Request for H&L Tobacco, Inc.	Mr. Jeff Ricketson
4. City of Walthourville Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Liberty County 2024 T-SPLOST.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
5. Johnnie Frasier Park	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
IX. Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X. Mayor and Council Comments	Elected Officials
XI. Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XII. Executive Session	Attorney Luke R. Moses
XIII. Office of the Mayor	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIV. Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate

All Meetings are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. The Roll was taken by the City Clerk with all members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present,

- III. The Invocation was given by Councilman Patrick Underwood.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Approval of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.
- VI. Approval of Minutes: The motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2024 meeting was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette
- VII. Presentation None
- VIII. Agenda Items

1. LCPC

Mr. Ricketson presented Rezoning Petition 2024-033-W. The rezoning was submitted by Kendra Martin on behalf of the owner, Lucia Martin to rezone .40 acres+/- from AR-1 (Agricultural Residential) to SFMH (Single-family Manufactured Home) for a mobile home. The Property is located at 2126 Shaw Road. Mrs. Kendra Martin is proposing the rezoning to place a mobile home her sister's property. Mr. Ricketson stated the mobile home conforms to the City's mobile home requirements and it also conforms to the Liberty County Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

The Motion to enter a Public Hearing at 6:06 PM was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. *Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.*

There were no speakers in support nor any opposing speakers.

The Motion to exit the Public Hearing at 6:07 PM was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. *Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.*

The motion to approve the Rezoning Petition 2024-033-W with Standard Conditions was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Mr. Ricketson presented a Business License Request for STR 8 Drop Seafood Kitchen to be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway. The business owner is Mr. Christopher Miller, and the property is Zoned C-3 (Highway Commercial). Mr. Miller is requesting the use of the space for a food truck. The Motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Mr. Ricketson presented a Business License for H & L Tobacco, Inc. The Business Owner is Maen Kassim and the business will be located at 245 Slaten Street (formerly No #1 China Restaurant). The property is zoned C-3 Highway Commercial. Mr. Kassim will need a Georgia Department of Revenue License from the State to sell tobacco. However, to apply for the License for the State, he must have the license from the city. Mr. Kassim has several smoke shops in Hinesville. He will only sell tobacco, this will not mimic a Hookah Lounge. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Hayes presented the T-SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement. She stated the T-SPLOST IGA is Beneficial to the city because of the revenue that it will generate, and it will assist the city in repairing and maintaining roads. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked, "What does the T-SPLOST entail? Attorney Moses stated the breakdown of the city's Project is on Page 22 of the IGA. The city will receive \$3,090,223.00 over a five-year period. The project for Walthourville will include:

Constructing, improving, renovating repairing, re-surfacing, patching, milling, leveling, Widening, shoulder preparation, culvert repair, preservation, and extending roads, streets, Sidewalks, walking trails, bicycle paths, and bridge projects and improvements, stormwater Projects and projects to improve surface water drainage from or in connection with any of the Forgoing; acquisition of all necessary rights of way; re-location of necessary utilities for any of the foregoing purposes, including matching funds for grants awarded for the capital outlay projects specified in the above items and funds for purchase and payment and satisfaction of lease purchase agreements for capital assets including machinery and equipment necessary or desirable to accomplish the above projects, together with all infrastructure, activities or structures useful or incidents to providing access to the same.

Attorney Moses stated he reviewed the document and his office helped draft the document, and he had no concerns. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.

Councilmembers voting favorably: Underwood, Boston, Kelly and Dodd.

Councilmember opposing: Lovette

5. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated the elected body had discussed the regulations for the park, including what was allowed and not allowed in the park. The rental fee for the park was discussed. City Hall generated a report which indicated the park was not receiving sufficient revenue to break even. The park's day to day maintenance

includes lawn service by Public Works, Cleaning, Security Cameras, Port-a-Potty, lawn service by Public Works, Cleaning, Security Cameras, Port-A-Potty's and opening and closing the park.

IX. Department Reports City of Walthourville

Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Reported the bills had been posted for July and sent to QS1. The water team has been repairing some low Water pressures in the city and the water meters for the Townhomes on Shaw Road have been installed.

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported the Department has answered 30 calls, consisting of 24 medical calls. The Department has closed out the 2nd Quarter of this year. The city's Fire District has changed, the city is no longer responding to calls in the unincorporated area of Highway 119 in Liberty County. The County Commissioners did not renew this agreement and the current agreement expired on June 30th. The department has seen a 139% increase in call volume from 2023 to current 2024.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported several officers are going to attend active shooting training in Rincon. The cost of the training will be free. Chief Reed and Corporal Adams completed a three-week intensive instructor training in Savannah. This will be beneficial to the department because both will be able to teach.

X. Council Comments Elected Officials

Councilman Boston reminded everyone of the LCPC Planning Commission Meeting that will be held on July 22-2024 at 6:00 at the Liberty County Career Academy. Also on July 20, 2024 Liberty County Elected Officials will play a Basketball Game against the Boys and Girls Club. This is a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club.

Councilman Underwood reiterated that the LCPC Planning Commission Meeting was important. He encouraged the citizens to show up because the City's Comprehensive Plan would be discussed. He stated he would not be participating in the Basketball Game; he will be the Coach.

Councilwoman Kelly had no report.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette had no report.

Councilman Dodd had no report.

XI. Citizens Comments None

XII. Executive Session: At 6:31 PM a motion to enter into Executive Session for Real Estate and Personnel was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

XIII. Office of the Mayor: Mayor Hayes stated the city's Movie Night was a success, she Thanked Councilman Underwood for spearheading the event. She stated the LCPC Planning Commission Meeting was important and encouraged attendance.

XIV. Adjournment: At 7:34 a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added
By Councilman Boston.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

Shana T. Moss

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk

Sarah B. Hayes

Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

City of Walthourville

City Council

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert Dodd

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

City Administration

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Mayor and Council Meeting Amended Agenda July 23, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes	Councilmembers
	➤ July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes	
	➤ July 9, 2024 Executive Session Minutes	
VII.	Presentation	None
VIII.	Agenda Items	
	1. City of Walthourville Illegal Dumping Ordinance.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
	2. City of Walthourville Public Defender Contract.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
	3. City of Walthourville Park Fees.	Mayor and Council
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XI.	Council Comments	Elected Officials
XII.	Office of the Mayor	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIII.	Executive Session	None
XIV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate
All Meetings are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Andrew M. Ruberti of was present in the absence of City Attorney Luke R. Moses.

III. The invocation was given by Pastor Alan Stewart of Victory Baptist Church.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Approval of Agenda; The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Lovette. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Approval of Minutes:

- July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes: The motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd. Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.
- July 9, 2023 Executive Session Minutes: The motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried.
Councilmembers voting favorably were: Councilmen Boston Underwood and Councilwoman Kelly.
Councilmembers opposed: Mayor Pro Lovette and Councilman Dodd.

VII. Presentations

None

VIII. Agenda Items

1. City of Walthourville

Presented an Illegal Dumping Ordinance for. She stated illegal dumping has become prevalent in the city and oftentimes contractors will bring and or leave their debris for the city to collect. She added that tires are being dumped illegally in the city, along with furniture and other huge items. The fees for dumping can be modified but she feels a stiff penalty will deter individuals from dumping. Councilwoman Kelly stated she felt the initial fine should be more than \$50.00 and the fifth offense should be very severe. The fines will be as follows: 1st offense \$150.00; 2nd offense, \$300.00; 3rd offense, \$500.00; 4th offense \$700.00 and upon a fifth offense \$1,000.00 The motion to approve the illegal dumping ordinance and make it effective immediately was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated the Public Defender that is used by the City for Municipal Court be enacted. The Municipal Court Defender is Attorney Earle Duncan. Attorney Duncan will be paid \$350.00 per appearance when court is held monthly. If Attorney Duncan does not attend court, he will not be paid. This is the amount the public defender is currently receiving. A formal contract was not enacted, and now Public Defender Duncan will have a formal contract. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor and Council

The Mayor and Council have debated for months about the price fee increase for Johnnie Frasier Park. The rental of the park and the fees do not cover the overhead, maintenance, and upkeep. Oftentimes the park is rented to individuals who make a profit and charge other vendors. Citizens who rent the park utilize the water that is paid for by the city. The Park Fee Increase is reflected as follows and will become effective on August 1, 2024.

For Profit Event Fee is \$500.00 (8am to 8 pm) – No deposit will be refunded for a Profit Event. If the renter fails to disclose that the event is “for Profit, a citation will be issued, and the renter must cover the cost of any court fees.

Full Day Rental Fee is \$150.00 (8am to 8 pm) with a \$50.00 refund if the park is left clean. Half Day Rental is \$100 (8am - 2pm or 2pm - 8 pm) with a \$50.00 refund. The motion to approve the fee increases was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville Department Heads

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Water Department

Mr. Golphin informed the Mayor and Council that some citizens are not paying the \$31.60 Fire Fee that was enacted in March of 2024. He stated that he wanted to obtain clarity, “did the Mayor and Council want the Water Department to proceed with disconnecting the citizens who have not and are refusing to pay the Fire Fee?” Mr. Golphin stated some citizens have said they will not pay the fire fee and have a balance on their account. All members of the Mayor and Council stated yes, to proceed. That is the rule they enacted in February 2024 when the Fire Fee was voted on at the February 13, 2024, Mayor and Council Meeting. All members of the Mayor and Council stated yes, to process with the delinquent Fire Fee Disconnections. Mr. Golphin stated the team would begin disconnection for delinquent Fire Fee’s in March. Councilman Underwood stated, “when the citizens get upset or irate about the disconnection, you all (City Hall Employees) give them our (Elected Officials) phone numbers. Mr. Golphin, Thanked Councilman Underwood for his concern.

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Fire Department

Chief Maxwell gave the department statistics for the past two weeks which consisted of 33 calls, 20 medical and 2 fires. He stated the department was initializing a Back-to-School Supply Closet. This closet will be used for families who have burnout. He stated the department feels that school supplies should be the last thing on a parent’s mind when suffering a loss from a fire. He also stated the Department saved a home and rescued a citizen that was trapped in a home.

Major Anthony Hooker

Police Department

Major Hooker gave the report in the absence of Chief Reed who was attending the Chiefs Conference in Savannah. He stated since the last meeting the department has answered and responded to 90 calls. He added that most of the calls are domestic violence. He addressed alarms in city, and if a citizen's alarm is going off, officers are not allowed to blast lights and sirens. He further addressed that school will be starting soon and anyone who passes a school bus will be fined \$1,000 and if there is not a barrier in the center of the lane, all traffic must stop in both directions. He further added that at the beginning of school there will be a joint effort between the Fire and Police Departments to be at Bus Stops.

X. Citizens Comments

Walthourville Citizens

1. Ms. Alma Wells inquired about the dry trash pickup and what does it entail? She was informed that bulk trash consists of limbs, and appliances, no tires or contractor items. She also stated that oftentimes during the night other citizens will illegally dump in/on the yards of others.

2. Mr. Mike Talley inquired to the Police Department about not going to alarm call blasting lights and sirens. He stated but he often sees the Police Officers going at a high rate of speed. Major Hooker addressed the issue and stated there are mitigating circumstances where they will ride without lights and sirens because of the nature of the call.

3. Pastor Alan Stewart of Victory Baptist Church stated the church have maintained Sparrow Lane. Sparrow Lane cuts through Victory Baptist and they maintain the road. Since the city enforced the ordinance of bagging the leaves they don't have the manpower to bag the leaves. He would like the Mayor and Council to reconsider.

XI. Council Comments

City of Walthourville

Councilman Mitchell Boston stated he wanted to address the City's Website and the FAQ Page. He also announced the Sanitation Bid Openings would be opened publicly at 10:00 AM on Thursday July 25, 2024, at the Police Department. He also inquired about the city's finances and was informed by the Mayor that CKH Consulting was still working on the financials.

Councilman Patrick Underwood stated the Fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club was a great success. The Liberty County Elected Officials played the Boys and Girls Club. He Thanked Councilman Boston for spearheading and being the visionary for the project. He gave accolades to all the elected officials for being present, Walthourville was the only city to have all elected officials present. Councilman Dodd scored the winning points for the Elected Officials. He addressed that leaves are not being picked up because they are not being bagged. He further added that during the Citizens Comments of the meeting that the citizens only be allowed to speak to the Mayor and Council and not the audience. He stated this keeps the meeting orderly.

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly reminded everyone about the City's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated the vendors that she obtained bids for erecting the fence at Johnnie Frasier Park are still contacting her about the status of constructing the fence.

Councilman Dodd had no report.

XII. Office of the Mayor

Spoke about the Memorial Service for the Liberty County Firefighter that was killed. She stated the Memorial Service would be August 10th (she emailed the arrangements to everyone) and she encouraged the city to attend. She also spoke about the city's 50th Anniversary Celebration. She stated the original founders of the city and previous members of the Mayor and Council that have served would be recognized.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

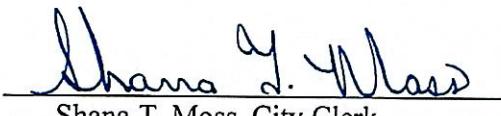
Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked, "what is the status of the finances? Mayor Hayes stated the finances are doing better, the CPA is working on getting information caught up. She added that CKH told her that Former CPA, Mr. Matthew Caines, had done such a good job of keeping the finances current that it was making their jobs easier. The Mayor Pro Tem had an additional question about the intersection of Shaw and Airport Road and if a roundabout would be constructed. Mayor Hayes stated she had a meeting with DOT and a roundabout wasn't mentioned, she stated she did ask DOT about erecting a light at that intersection.

XIII. Executive Session

None

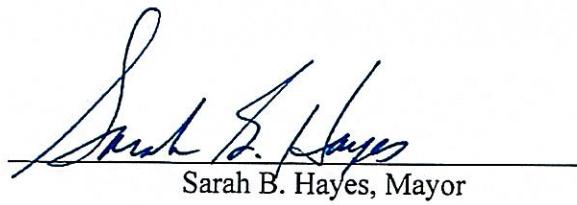
XIV. Adjournment: At 7:02 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was provided by Councilman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.



Shana T. Moss

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes

Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

City Council
City Council

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert Dodd

City of Walthourville

Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor

City Administration

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk
Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

August 13, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes	Councilmembers
	➤ July 23, 2024 Meeting	
VII.	Presentation	None
VIII.	Agenda Items:	
	1. Stack Benck APP	Chief Christopher Reed
	2. Illegal Dumping Ordinance Sign	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XI.	Council Comments	Elected Officials
XII.	Mayor Comments	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIII.	Executive Session	None
XIV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate

All Meetings are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. Roll Call: The Roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was rendered by Councilman Mitchell Boston.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Approval of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.
- VI. Approval of Minutes from the July 23, 2024 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd. Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried.
Members Voting Favorably were Councilmembers Boston, Kelly and Dodd.
Members Voting Unfavorably were Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and Councilmember Boston.

VII. Presentation

City of Walthourville Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed administered the Oath of Office to (two) new Police Officers. Officer Jonathan Payne and Officer Evasio Warren. Officer Payne is the new Code-Enforcement Officer, and he will work part-time as a regular officer. Officer Warren is retired military, and he states that he is excited to a part of the Team.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. StackBench App

Stated he is seeking approval to configure/create the StackBench App. Stack Bench is a company that offers public safety apps designed for agencies to improve communication and interaction between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. In Walthourville, the app provided by Stack Bench will enable officers to deliver real-time information to citizens, enhancing public safety and community engagement. The app also allows citizens to interact directly with officers, creating a more responsive and connected environment.

Additionally, the app features wellness check capabilities for officers and their families, ensuring their well-being is monitored and supported. Information relevant to the officers can also be disseminated through the app, ensuring that they stay informed and connected. The app is available for both iPhone and Android users, making it accessible to a wide range of people. The cost of the App is \$2500 annually. A discussion ensued pertaining to the difference in the city's notification system that was enacted in June of this year. Chief Reed stated this APP was directly associated and tailored for Law Enforcement. Liberty

County Sheriff's Department and City of Hinesville's Police Department both utilize this APP. Additionally information was requested from Chief Reed and no action was taken on this item.

2. Illegal Dumping Ordinance Sign.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated the city approved the Illegal Dumping Ordinance at the June 23, 2024, meeting and the signage has been ordered and will be placed around the city.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville

Mr. Patrick Golpin

Water Department

Reported utility bills were sent out, despite the city being closed due to Tropical Storm Debby. The website is updated with the new water rates. Disconnection for non-paying Fire Fee Citizens will begin. The Mayor and Council authorized City Hall to disconnect at the July 23rd meeting.

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Fire Department

Reported the department has answered the following calls within the two weeks from the last meeting on July 23, 2024 which are: 50 calls total, 35 which are medical, 2 fires and 9 miscellaneous calls. He further added the Department was operational and vigilant during Tropical Storm Debby. He added that he rode the city during the storm with Chief Reed and Councilmen Boston and Underwood. The Department's School Supply Closet has been activated and is open to any citizen experiencing a fire related crisis in Liberty County.

Chief Christopher Reed

Police Department

Reported the department has answered the following calls within the two weeks from the last meeting on July 23, 2024, which are 296 calls, 40 reports generated, 31 citations written, and 9 warnings. The department conducted Active Shooter Training July 31st and August 1st at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Hinesville.

X. Citizens Comments:

Ms. Gwen Dykes stated this is her third (3) time addressing the sanitation issue. She is opposed privatization because the city has a good department, the employees are great, and we have the equipment. She suggests increasing the fees for the services so it can remain with the city. She stated the city doesn't need another APP, she has signed up for the alerts that the city sends out and that is working fine. We don't need to spend anymore money if we don't have to. She requested a flyer for additional information.

Mr. Arnold Moore stated he has concerned about the city's sanitation/bulk trash. He would like to know specifically what does the city collect? He also addressed the increased water bill. Mr. Moore stated he moved to Walthourville in December of 2023, and he is ready to sell his home and move because of all the fees that have happened so quickly.

XI. Council Comments

Elected Officials

Councilman Boston stated two companies submitted Bids which are: ABC Waste and Atlantic Waste. He stated he remains committed that the city needs to "get out of the trash business." Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated the city currently owed Liberty County \$ 63,000 in expenses. Councilman Boston stated the cost will increase when the new bill is transmitted. He relinquished and asked the bidders to make comments.

Sam Sullivan with Atlantic Waste stated his company services many Municipal Governments, they are based in Pooler and serve over 130,000 households. They have transfer stations in both Pooler and Statesboro. They employ 250 employees, and they have 130 trucks, and their service is more costly,

because of the number of employees and fleet. He stated he believes the city should keep the billing in-house. He added that Ms. Moss (City Clerk) would not be happy with this. Ms. Moss addressed Mr. Sullivan and stated, "this is not Ms. Moss's decision this is the Mayor and Council who govern the city, the RFP was drafted and give to me by Councilman Boston to post. The component that I am concerned about is the Customer Service that Atlantic will be able to provide our citizens, because we take care of our citizens."

Charles Stewart with ABC Waste stated his company services many households, they service commercial customers in parts of Chatham County, Effingham County, Beaufort County and Bryan County. They service 11,000 customers weekly and have 25 employees and over 20 vehicles in their fleet. He said they are smaller, but they work efficiently and effectively just like their large competitors. He added they are a small family business and that is the service they offer their citizens.

Mayor Hayes thanked each of these companies for their presentations. She stated the city needs to allow the citizens to have input and hear their concerns about the potential privatization. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette concurred. The Mayor and Council scheduled a Public Hearing for Thursday August 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Police Department.

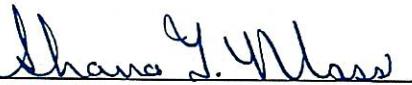
Councilman Underwood questioned the city's finances. He stated the council has not been updated and they have only received two (2) reports since February/March. He said he would like to have a report and see the city's bills. Mayor Hayes stated the bills are available every day at City Hall. She asked that the council please let the City Hall Team know that you are coming so they can be available and not be engrossed in working on another project and the team be happy to help them.

Councilwoman Kelly had no comment(s).

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette had no comment(s).

Councilman Dodd had no comment(s).

XII. Mayor Comments	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Stated that city information is being circulated via the city's notification system.	
XIII. Executive Session	None
XIV. Adjournment: At 7:43 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.	



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



City of Walthourville
Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

Elected Officials

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

City Administration

Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works Adm.
Patrick Golphin, Water Supervisor
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda
August 27, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City of Walthourville
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes	Councilmembers
	• August 13, 2024 Meeting	
VII.	Presentation(s)	
VIII.	Agenda Items:	Mayor and Council
1.	City of Walthourville Privatization of Sanitation.	Councilman Mitchell Boston
2.	City of Walthourville FY 2025 Budget.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
3.	City of Walthourville Charter Amendments.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
4.	LCPC Business License Request for Rainbow Learning Center.	Ms. Lori Parks
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XI.	Council Comments	Elected Officials
XII.	Mayor Comments	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIII.	Executive Session	None
XIV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate.

All Meetings are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

VII. Presentation(s) None

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. City of Walthourville Councilman Mitchell Boston
Privatization of Sanitation. Councilman Boston stated he would like to make a motion to move forward with the privatization of Sanitation. He acknowledged both bidders were present, Charles Stewart with ABC Waste and Sam Sullivan with Atlantic Waste. Attorney Moses asked, 'has the determination been made to both companies and can they both provide the services asked by the council". Councilman Boston stated yes. Attorney Moses referenced OCGA 36-91-2 which states:

§ 36-91-20. Written contract required; advertising; competitive sealed bidding; timing of addendums; prequalification (a) All public works construction contracts subject to this chapter entered into by a governmental entity with private persons or entities shall be in writing and on file and available for public inspection at a place designated by such governmental entity. Municipalities and consolidated governments shall execute and enter into contracts in the manner provided in applicable local legislation or by ordinance. (b) (1) Prior to entering into a public works construction contract other than those exempted by Code Section 36-91-22, a governmental entity shall publicly advertise the contract opportunity. Such notice shall be posted conspicuously in the governing authority's office and shall be advertised in the legal organ of the county or by electronic means on an Internet website of the governmental entity or an Internet website identified by the governmental entity which may include the Georgia Procurement Registry as provided by Code Section 50-5-69. (2) Contract opportunities that are advertised in the legal organ shall be advertised a minimum of two times, with the first advertisement occurring at least four weeks prior

to the opening of the sealed bids or proposals. The second advertisement shall follow no earlier than two weeks from the first advertisement. (3) Contract opportunities that are advertised solely on the Internet shall be posted continuously for at least four weeks prior to the opening of sealed bids or proposals. Inadvertent or unintentional loss of Internet service during the advertisement period shall not require the contract award or bid or proposal opening to be delayed. (4) Contract opportunities that will be awarded by competitive sealed bids shall have plans and specifications available on the first day of the advertisement and shall be open to inspection by the public. The plans and specifications shall indicate if the project will be awarded by base bid or base bid plus selected alternates and: (A) A statement listing whether all anticipated federal, state, or local permits required for the project have been obtained or an indication of the status of the application for each such permit including when it is expected to be obtained; and (B) A statement listing whether all anticipated rights of way and easements required for the project have been obtained or an indication of the status as to when each such rights of way or easements are expected to be obtained. (5) Contract opportunities that will be awarded by competitive sealed proposals shall be publicly advertised with a request for proposals which request shall include conceptual program information in the request for proposals describing the requested services in a level of detail appropriate to the project delivery method selected for the project. (6) The advertisement shall include such details and specifications as to enable the public to know the extent and character of the work to be done. (7) All required notices of advertisement shall also advise of any mandatory prequalification requirements or pre-bid conferences as well as any federal requirements pursuant to subsection (d) of Code Section 36-91-22. Any advertisement which provides notice of a mandatory prebid conference or prequalification shall provide reasonable advance notice of said conference or for the submittal of such prequalification information. (c) Governmental entities are authorized to utilize any construction delivery method, provided that all public works construction contracts subject to the requirements of this chapter that: (1) Place the bidder or offeror at risk for construction; and (2) Require labor or building materials in the execution of the contract shall be awarded on the basis of competitive sealed bidding or competitive sealed proposals. Governmental entities shall have the authority to reject all bids or proposals or any bid or proposal that is nonresponsive or not responsible and to waive technicalities and informalities.

Both ABC Waste and Atlantic Waste offer the option of bulk trash and yard debris collection in conjunction with household waste. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked in regard to the City Employees (CDL Drivers) who might be hired on with the company who receives the bid, where is the starting point for work? Mr. Charles Stewart with ABC states they would like to utilize the city's Public Work area on Hardman Road and the drivers could leave locally. Mr. Sam Sullivan with Atlantic Waste stated the first 30-60 days the drivers would be local until they get acquainted with the route and then they would be assigned to their Pooler/Savannah location permanently.

Councilman Dodd inquired about the cost of an additional polycart and Atlantic Waste stated they would charge \$15.00. and ABC stated \$12.00. Both companies stated they would offer on-call as needed service to customers. The City of Walthourville provides Sanitation Collection to Allenhurst and they would have to enter into an IGA with Walthourville that the company who receives the bid will continue picking up trash. City Clerk Moss stated, the City of Walthourville cannot legally enter into an agreement with Allenhurst on behalf of the company who is awarded the bid. She suggested that "we be good neighbors and have the Mayors and Councils from both cities sit down for a meeting to discuss any concerns. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she suggested the Mayors (Mayor Hayes-Walthourville and Mayor Willis-Allenhurst) of both cities have the meeting.

Atlantic and ABC stated if they were awarded the contract, they could start city collection on October 1st because polycarts are already intact.

Councilman Boston made a motion to move forward with the privatization; with the stipulation that the awarding of the bid will occur when a bid is officially accepted. The second was added by Councilman Dodd. Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried: Opposed, Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

2. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated the City's Annual Budget is due by December 31st and she urged the council to choose dates for the workshops. She stated in previous years the budgets were not approved until the end of December and this year she would like them to begin working earlier. Councilwoman Kelly asked, if the city's CPA would be present. Mayor Hayes stated, yes and this is why the council need to choose dates so the CPA's can place it on their calendars. The dates chosen for FY Budget 2025 Mayor and Council Workshops are:

- September 19th- 6:00 PM-8:30 PM @ the Walthourville Police Department
- October 3rd-6:00 PM-8:30 PM @ the Walthourville Police Department
- October 17th, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM @ the Walthourville Police Department

The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated the Council had expressed an interest in revising the Charter. She asked the council how did they want to proceed? Attorney Moses stated to have the Charter Amended would consist of submitting information to the State Legislature. Senator Ben Watson and Representative Al Williams would have to sponsor the changes. The legislature convenes in January; therefore, the amendment would have to be submitted in the middle of February. Attorney Moses added that the city would have to advertise for two regular consecutive meetings and a legal notice would have to be placed in the legal origin for three weeks in a period of 60 days.

Attorney Moses referenced to the Mayor and Council OCGA 36-35-3 which is verbatim:

Title 36 - Local Government Chapter 35 Home Rule Powers. § 36-35-3. Adoption of Ordinances, Rules, and Regulations; Amendment of Charters and Amendment or Repeal of Ordinances, Rules, and Regulations by Petition and Referendum.

- a. The governing authority of each municipal corporation shall have legislative power to adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions, or regulations relating to its property, affairs, and local government for which no provision has been made by general law and which are not inconsistent with the Constitution or any charter provision applicable thereto. Any such charter provision shall remain in force and effect until amended or repealed as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section. This Code section, however, shall not restrict the authority of the General Assembly, by general law, to define this home rule power further or to broaden, limit, or otherwise regulate the exercise thereof. The General Assembly shall not pass any local law to repeal, modify, or supersede any action taken by a municipal governing authority under this Code section, except as authorized under Code Section 36-35-6.
- b. Except as provided in Code Section 36-35-6, a municipal corporation may, as an incident of its home rule power, amend its charter by following either of the following procedures:

1. Municipal charters may be amended by ordinances duly adopted at two regular consecutive meetings of the municipal governing authority, not less than seven nor more than 60 days apart. A notice containing a synopsis of the proposed amendment shall be published in the official organ of the county of the legal situs of the municipal corporation or in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipal corporation once a week for three weeks within a period of 60 days immediately preceding its final adoption. The notice shall state that a copy of the proposed amendment is on file in the office of the clerk or the recording officer of the municipal governing authority and in the office of the clerk of the superior court of the county of the legal situs of the municipal corporation for the purpose of examination and inspection by the public. The recording officer of the municipal governing authority shall furnish anyone, upon written request, a copy of the proposed amendment. No amendment under this paragraph shall be valid to change or repeal an amendment adopted pursuant to a referendum as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection or to change or repeal a local Act of the General Assembly ratified in a referendum as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection or to change or repeal a local Act of the General Assembly ratified in a referendum by the electors of the municipal corporation unless at least 12 months have elapsed after such referendums. No amendment under this paragraph shall be valid if provision has been made therefor by general law; or
2. Amendments to charters or amendments to or repeals of ordinances, resolutions, or regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section may be initiated by a petition, filed with the governing authority of the municipal corporation, containing, in cases of municipal corporations with a population of 5,000 or less, the signatures of at least 25 percent of the electors registered to vote in the last general municipal election; in cases of municipal corporations with a population of more than 5,000 but not more than 100,000, at least 20 percent of the electors registered to vote in the last general municipal election; and in cases of municipal corporations with a population of more than 100,000, at least 15 percent of the electors registered to vote in the last general municipal election. The petition shall specifically set forth the exact language of the proposed amendment or repeal. The governing authority shall determine the validity of such petition within 50 days of its filing with the governing authority. In the event that the governing authority determines that such petition is valid, it shall be the duty of such authority to issue the call for an election for the purpose of submitting such amendment or repeal to the registered electors of the municipal corporation for their approval or rejection. Such call shall be issued within one week after the determination of the validity of the petition. The governing authority shall set the date of the election as provided in Code Section 21-2-540. The governing authority shall cause a notice of the date of the election to be published in the official organ of the county of the legal situs of the municipal corporation or in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipal corporation once a week for two weeks immediately preceding such date. The notice shall also contain a synopsis of the proposed amendment or repeal and shall state that a copy thereof is on file in the office of the clerk or the recording officer of the municipal governing authority and in the office of the clerk of the superior court of the county of the legal situs of the municipal corporation, for the purpose of examination and inspection by the public. The recording officer of the municipal governing authority shall furnish anyone, upon written request, a copy of the proposed amendment. If more

than one-half of the votes cast on the question are for approval of the amendment or the repeal, the same shall become of full force and effect; otherwise it shall be void and of no force and effect. The expense of the election shall be borne by the municipal corporation. It shall be the duty of the governing authority to hold and conduct such election. The election shall be held under the same laws and rules and regulations as govern special elections of the municipal corporation, except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph. It shall be the duty of the governing authority to canvass the returns and to declare and certify the result of the election. It shall be the further duty of the governing authority to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State. A referendum on any such amendment or repeal shall not be held more often than once each year. No amendment under this subparagraph shall be valid if provision has been made therefor by general law.

- A. c. In the event that the governing authority determines that the petition is not valid, it shall publish in explicit detail the reasons why such petition is not valid. Such publication shall be in the official organ of the county of the legal situs of the municipal corporation or in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipal corporation, in the week immediately following the date on which the petition is declared to be not valid. In any proceeding in which the validity of the petition is at issue, the tribunal considering such issue shall not be limited by the reasons assigned.
- B. The sponsor of a petition authorized by this paragraph shall obtain copies of all official petitions from the clerk of the governing authority. The clerk of the governing authority shall approve all petitions as to form. The clerk of the governing authority shall provide a place on each form for the person collecting signatures to provide his or her name, street address, city, county, state, ZIP Code, and telephone number and to swear that he or she is a resident of the municipality affected by the petition and that the signatures were collected inside the boundaries of the affected municipality. The collection of signatures for the petition shall begin on the day the clerk of the governing authority provides official copies to the sponsor of the petition. A petition authorized by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not be accepted by the governing authority for verification if more than 60 days have elapsed since the date the sponsor of the petition first obtained copies of the petition from the clerk of the governing authority. Any petition being circulated pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph on July 1, 1989, shall be filed with the clerk of the governing authority by not later than July 11, 1989. The clerk of the governing authority shall, within seven days, provide the sponsor with official petitions. The sponsor shall have 60 additional days after obtaining official petitions to collect the remaining number of required signatures. Nothing in this subparagraph shall invalidate otherwise valid signatures collected on or before July 1, 1989. such city-county consolidated government shall not be authorized to amend its consolidated government charter pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section.

Upon hearing the information presented by Attorney Moses about the charter amendment process the Mayor and Council discussed the time frame. They are presently amid the FY 2025 Budget preparation and have upcoming workshops. The FY 2025 Budget will require Public Hearings and additional meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she felt the Charter updates should be extended. She stated she is aware that City Hall will be inundated with FY 2025 Budget prep and end of the year closeouts. She suggested extending the updates until January 2025.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated, "the city has waited over 40 years to update the charter, what will a few additional months hurt, and it will give the employees time to regroup from the end of the year work. City Clerk Moss stated City Hall is aware there are new council members who are probably unaware of the end of the year processes that must be followed. She stated that General Ledger must be closed out for 2024. The new budget (FY 2025) must be input and rolled out and ready for January 1st, 2025. Payroll must be closed out for 2024 and tested for 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette made the motion to extend the charter update to January 2025 and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 3-1-1: Motion Carried.

Members voting favorably were Mayor Pro Tem Lovette, Councilwoman Kelly and Councilman Dodd.

Member opposing: Councilman Boston

Member abstained: Councilman Underwood

4. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Presented a Business License Request for Rainbow Learning Center. The business owner is Ms. Cynthis Berrios. The business will be located at 133 Fletcher Road. Ms. Berrios was approved for conditional use for the Learning Center on January 11, 2022, by the Mayor and Council. The business is an in-house daycare and there can only be 1-6 people in the home at any given time.

Ms. Parks stated the neighbors in the area don't have any concerns and she has never applied for a Business License in 2022. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville

Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Reported the city is proceeding with the disconnects from the customers who are not paying the Fire Fee. The city has meters that still need to be replaced.

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported the State conducted the Fire Department's Audit, and the department passed, and the city is in compliance. He gave the department's statistics.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported that Major Hooker and himself would be attending Firearms Training from September 6th-11th. He further stated that Officer Payne has been doing some Code Enforcement in the city. He also provided additional information from the StackBench App that the Mayor, Council and residents requested. The City of Hinesville and Liberty County uses UCP. He addressed a Police Scam that is circulating. Chief Reed stated that no member of law enforcement will ever make a phone call and ask for money over the phone. He suggested to citizens if they ever encounter this type of scam to please report it.

X. Citizens Comments

(Walthourville Citizens-3 Minutes)

1. Gary Bradham stated he would like the Mayor and Council to re-evaluate the three minutes that are given to citizens to speak. He suggested 10 minutes for citizens to address their concerns. He asked if the waste companies were going to buy the Sanitation Truck? He further asked if Public Property can be sold.

2. Brenton Nobles stated false information is being given out regarding the Sanitation Privatization. He stated the trucks that the current companies (ABC and Atlantic) are different than the trucks the city uses; therefore, will the companies buy the trucks. He stated the fees that the Mayor and Council are imposing are too expensive.

XI. Council Comments

Elected Officials

Councilman Mitchell Boston stated he feels the city is moving in the right direction with privatization and he does have the city's best interest at the forefront of every decision. He stated the city has to have vision and oftentimes being a leader means making tough decisions and as long as we're moving with integrity, we will be fine. "

Councilman Patrick Underwood stated he had no comment.

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly stated she had no comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she had no comment.

Councilman Dodd stated he had no comment.

XII. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Hayes had no comments.

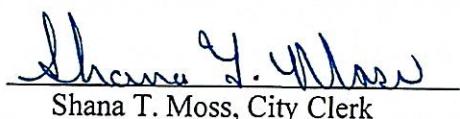
XIII. Executive Session: Councilwoman Kelly stated she would like to make a motion to enter into Executive Session for Real Estate. The motion was made at 7:17 PM and was seconded by Councilman Underwood.

At 7:49 PM a motion to exit Executive Session and re-enter into open session was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

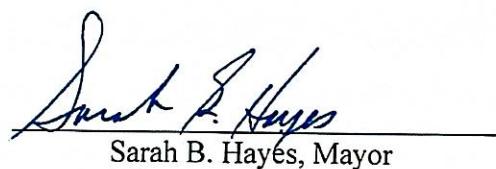
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

XIV. Adjournment: At 7:50 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



City of Walthourville



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

Elected Officials

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

City Administration

Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works Adm.
Patrick Golphin, Water Supervisor
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda **September 10, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City of Walthourville
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes	Councilmembers
	August 27, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes	
	August 27, 2024 Executive Session Minutes	
VII.	Presentation(s)	
VIII.	Agenda Items:	Mayor and Council
	1. LCPC	Ms. Lori Parks
	Variance 2024-050-W.	
	2. City of Walthourville	Councilman Mitchell Boston
	Privatization of Sanitation Awarding of Contract.	
	3. City of Walthourville	Councilman Patrick Underwood
	2025 Millage.	
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizen
XI.	Council Comments	Elected Officials
XII.	Mayor Comments	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIII.	Executive Session	None
XIV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate.

All Meeting are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was called by Kara Jackson with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Councilman Patrick Underwood.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was provided by Councilman Boston.
Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried.
- VI. Adoption of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2024. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was provided by Councilman Dodd.
Vote 4-1 Motion Carried.
Mayor Pro Tem Lovette Opposed.

Adoption of City Council Executive Meeting Minutes from August 27th, 2024. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was provided by Councilman Boston.

Vote 4-1 Motion Carried.
Mayor Pro Tem Lovette Opposed.

- VII. Agenda Items:
 1. LCPC
Variance 2024-050-W
Mr. Tillman was asking for a variance for a 1-foot setback to reduce the required side yard setback of 5 feet to 4 feet for an accessory building. His neighbor, Mr. Young, does not oppose the variance. Mr. Tillman was not aware he needed a permit. Mayor Hayes asked if Mr. Tillman was present and if there were any questions. Councilman Boston stated that if there were no safety concerns, he sees no issues. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked if there would be any future issues if Mr. Young moves. Mrs. Parks said

no as he is still within his property line. Mrs Parks also states nothing disturbs anyone else's property line. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Boston and the second was provided by Councilman Underwood.

Vote 5-0 Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. City of Walthourville

Councilman Mitchell Boston

Privatization of Sanitation Awarding of Contract.

Councilman Boston started his comments with a speech that he had typed up. Boston stated that moving forward is crucial to maintaining the city's services efficiently after reviewing the available options. Councilman Boston suggested the City proceeds with Atlantic Waste. Councilman Dodd asked if customers would have the option to opt out of bulk to which Councilman Boston, "stated yes." Councilman Boston stated the representative from Atlantic Waste was present. The representative Mr. Sam Sullivan stated he would like to hire the city's CDL drivers. Councilman Dodd, "asked if the days would stay the same and Mr. Sullivan stated he would like to. Councilman Boston asked when he would get with City Hall and Mr. Sullivan stated hopefully by December 1st. everything would be worked out. Councilman Dodd asked, "if this would keep the trash from being interrupted and Mr. Sullivan stated yes." Councilwoman Kelly asked, "how long would the length of the contract be for?" Mr. Sullivan replied, 5 years.

Councilman Dodd asked how complaints would come in and Mr. Sullivan stated that they could call the company. Councilman Dodd asked, "what the price is on an additional can?" Mr. Sullivan stated it is \$15 per can. Councilman Dodd also asked about holidays to which Sullivan replied they don't operate on Christmas or Thanksgiving. Mr. Sullivan also stated that prior to them taking over they will put flyers on carts or even information in the paper. Attorney Moses asked, "how to opt out of bulk? Mr. Sullivan stated it is all very doable. Councilman Dodd asked about a possible open enrollment for bulk to which Mr. Sullivan stated it is doable. Councilman Boston asked how many vehicles would be dedicated to the route to which Mr. Sullivan stated maybe 2 and a half trucks. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked about keeping the drivers and Mr. Sullivan stated he would like to start them in the city and gradually within 3 months have them start from the home offices which are in Pooler and Statesboro. Mr. Sullivan stated there is plenty of room for the CDL drivers to grow with the company. He added they have 401k and other benefits and there is not a lot of turn over. Councilman Boston made the motion to move forward with Atlantic Waste and the second was given by Councilman Underwood.

Vote 3-2 Motion Carried.

Councilwoman Kelly and Mayor Pro Tem Lovette Opposed.

3. City of Walthourville
2025 Millage

Councilman Patrick Underwood

Councilman Underwood also started his comments with a speech that he had typed up. It stated he ran for city council to get Walthourville in a better financial place. It also stated there is no millage rate in place and that the unpopular subject is avoided. The letter stated he is not trying to get in day-to-day operations. It also stated that it was time for the Mayor to have the conversation with the Tax Commissioner. The longer the wait, the worse the City will be to not have this in place.

Mayor Hayes stated she has had numerous talks with the Tax Commissioner and was told to set a percentage and unfortunately the tax commissioner passed away (The Late Mr. Virgil Jones). Mayor Hayes stated she has been back there 3 times. Mayor Hayes stated the CPA's will be present on the 19th. Mayor Hayes will present her thoughts then on a city tax at \$265/year on a citizen. She also stated that she was told by County Administrator, Mr. Joey Brown that until the new commissioner will be sworn in, in January 2025 and there is no action they can take place until he is sworn in. Nevertheless, Mayor Hayes wants the CPAs to come in and discuss what they looked at and they have already done the past audits and she thanked Councilman Underwood for his comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she wanted to make a comment. "With the millage rate we just started the fire fee, fee and the water increase now we are going to do this all over again. My concern is we never had a forensic audit to determine if in fact where all of our funds are going so, I would recommend a forensic audit before we implement this millage rate." Councilman Underwood stated he agrees with her about the forensic audit but he was just thinking about the future and the millage wouldn't go in effect until 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked, "were they just talking about the millage rate or implementing it because the citizens need to know?" Councilman Underwood stated we would need to have 3 meetings with the citizens first, but this wouldn't go into effect until 2026.

Mayor Hayes stated in terms of the forensic audit there will be a forensic audit, and she has had discussions on how to get it done without it costing the city. There was also a question of doing a forensic audit before completing the needed audits but that could jeopardize those audits, and she didn't want that to happen. The Mayor added there will be a forensic audit once the audits are done. Mayor Hayes and Mayor Pro Tem Lovette had an exchange of words. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked, " how are we doing this without deciding what we have, and we may not have to implement a millage rate?" Mayor Hayes stated she just wants to make sure the city is covered so we can have what we need.

Councilman Boston gave the following statements, "the popular opinion is the audit and the City needs revenue to run. At this point it seems that the subject matters who we pay at GMA have said directly that we must cut expenses and raise revenue, and it doesn't seem to be resonating. We offer the amenities and services of a large city, police, fire and public works. The revenue that comes from the water bills cannot sustain the General Fund. It is designed to support the water department. The main issue that many citizens complain about is water and the revenue that's supposed to go into that infrastructure is going everywhere else. You can not debate math. The water department is supposed to support the water. We must raise revenue and that is through taxes. So, we either must decide what's going to get cut or raise revenue or a combination of both."

Mayor Hayes stated, " she agreed but would like us to listen to the advice given by the city CPA's." Councilman Boston stated, "we cannot operate out of emotion. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated, "her concern is we don't know where the money went; therefore, she is in favor of a forensic audit first." Councilman Boston added, "we made a promise to the citizens to end the Fire Fee in December, and he will not vote to continue it in.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated, "she thinks a forensic audit will end all the questions." "Councilman Boston asked the Mayor Pro Tem if she knew how much a forensic audit would cost?" She responded no. Attorney Moses stated there was \$25,000 set aside to which Councilwoman Kelly and Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated it was gone. Mayor Hayes stated the ballpark amount she was looking at was free to which Boston stated he likes free.

VIII. Department Reports

City of Walthourville

Water Department

Patrick Golphin

Mr. Golphin stated disconnects occurred on September 9th and there were 10 customers disconnected for not paying the Fire Fee and 112 customers disconnected solely for nonpayment. Attorney Moses asked, how many have paid?" Mr. Golphin stated, "half of those customers have paid to be reconnected." Councilman Boston asked if there was a payment plan for those struggling to pay. Mr. Golphin stated we always work with the customers, and we work up a viable payment plan with the customer. Mayor Pro Tem asked how many were disconnected for fire fee? Mr. Golphin stated again, 10. He also stated the customers were cut off for over 3 months of non-paying the fire fee, not 1 month of \$31.60. Attorney Moses asked about the differentiation to know the fire fee is not paid. Mayor Pro Tem asked if they terminate the Fire Fee in December could they use those funds to pay their bill. Mr. Golphin stated yes, and he added, when we explain to the customers, they feel a little better and let them know we will work with them." Councilman Boston asked if there were any complaints on smelly water and Mr. Golphin stated no. Mr. Golphin stated the real issue is the old meters that need to be updated. Councilman Boston asked how many need to be updated to which Mr. Golphin stated the last reread consisted of 80 that needed to be reread. Mr. Golphin stated we try our best with rereads and data logs and that the new meters would help. Councilman Underwood asked Mayor Hayes if that was something we are working on, and she stated yes.

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Chief Maxwell gave the statistics. There have been 27 calls of which there were 18 medical calls, 3 traffic accidents with injuries, 1 fire call and 1 miscellaneous. Councilman Boston asked how many full time staff? Chief Maxell responded 1, which is himself and 19 part-time firefighters and that they are a 24-hour station. Mayor Pro Tem asked how many responds to calls and Maxwell stated usually 5 persons.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Chief Reed gave the statistics. There have been 205 calls since the last meeting with 31 reports generated from those calls. Chief Reed spoke on Operation Drive Sober which happened on August 31st. From the road check there were 44 citations, 6 DUI's and 1 wanted person. The road check occurred on Highway 84 and EB Cooper Hwy. Since August 27th, there have been 82 citations with 14 warnings given and 2 vehicle crashes. Chief Reed stated he will be gone from Sept 16th – 18th for training and Sept 30th – Oct 11th for Firearm training for himself and Major Hooker. Chief Reed also stated there is an audit on September 20th for GCIC. Mayor Hayes asked, " how the diversion program was going?" Chief Reed stated it is going very well, it gives a person 90 days to pay for the ticket as well as give them the opportunity to take a driving course online and have the ticket dismissed.

Public Works

Elizabeth White
Garfield Turner

Ms. White stated she had been working with the City for 2 years but now it looks as if she will be cutting grass with the rest of the crew. Mayor Hayes asked how Public Works was? Ms. White stated, "very good." Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated her garbage was not all removed, and this is the 3rd week this has happened. Mr. Turner stated with the privatization of Sanitation he will be here until December. Mr. Turner stated in terms Mayor Pro Tem Lovette's trash being left behind the guys will not dig in the bottom of the cans and that's what she had in her can was paper stuck to the bottom.

IX. Citizen Comments

Walthourville Citizens

Patricia Greene

Stated she came to talk about the forensic audit. Mayor Hayes stated she was talking about the 21, 22, 23 audits. Ms. Greene stated the citizens need to know where the money went that was left there when she was in office. Ms. Greene stated that Mayor Pro Tem Lovette spoke on the issue she was referring to.

Councilwoman Kelly asked Mayor Hayes if there were talks when the Forensic Audit would be done. Mayor Hayes stated once the 21, 22 and 23 audits were complete. Councilman Boston asked Attorney Moses what the difference between a regular audit and forensic audit is? Attorney Moses stated his degree is in law and not math and he is unsure, but he feels they will look deeper into accounts. Councilwoman Kelly asked who will do a forensic audit for free and Mayor Hayes stated she will give all that information once the audits are done.

X. Council Comments

Elected Officials

Councilman Mitchell Boston

none

Councilman Patrick Underwood

none

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Stated her questions aren't being answered so she yielded her time.

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette

none

Councilman Robert Dodd

none

Mayor Hayes

There is a food giveaway on Monday September 16th in the parking lot of City Hall from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. There will be a Farmer's Market on Saturday September 14th in the parking lot of City Hall. On September 20th there will be a football scrimmage in the park, and we are in support of more youth coming out, followed by a movie night. On Saturday September 21st there will be a cake cutting at noon in Johnnie Frasier Park. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette asked if there was any expense to the city for the food drive to which Mayor Hayes stated, "no." this has not been done in 2 years and if it was on the weekend the City would have to pay but during the week it is free.

XI. Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made at 7:05 PM by Councilwoman Kelly and seconded by Councilman Boston. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

Kara Jackson
Ms. Kara Jackson

Minutes Submitted by Kara Jackson

Sarah B. Hayes
Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

Shana T. Moss
Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



**City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Workshop Agenda
September 24, 2024 @ 5:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

AGENDA

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City of Walthourville
III.	Cost Reduction	Councilmembers
IV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

This meeting is open to the public.



City of Walthourville

Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



Elected Officials

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

City Administration

Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works Adm.
Patrick Golphin, Water Supervisor
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

September 24, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City of Walthourville
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes	Councilmembers
September 10, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes		
VII.	Presentation(s)	None
VIII.	Agenda Items:	Mayor and Council
	1. City of Walthourville Keep Liberty Beautiful Rivers Alive Proclamation.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
	2. City of Walthourville Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month Proclamation.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XI.	Council Comments	Elected Officials
XII.	Mayor Comments	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIII.	Executive Session	None
XIV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate.

All Meeting are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

September 24, 2024

**No Minutes for September 24, 2024, due to
Non-Quorum for the Mayor and Council Meeting**

Members Present were:

**Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette**

Member Excused Absence due to Work:

Councilman Robert Dodd

Members Absence:

**Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly**

Shana T. Moss
Shana T. Moss, City Clerk

Sarah B. Hayes
Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



**City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Workshop Agenda
October 8, 2024 @ 5:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II. Roll Call	City Clerk
III. Agenda Items	Mayor and Council
1. Hurricane Information Briefing	Councilman Robert Dodd
2. Millage Follow-up	Mayor and Council
3. Budget Information Follow-up	Mayor and Council
4. Construction Update	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
5. Trash Privatization Status Update	Councilman Mitchell Boston
IV. Adjournment	Councilmembers



City of Walthourville
Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



Elected Officials

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

City Administration

Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works Adm.
Patrick Golphin, Water Supervisor
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

October 8, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City of Walthourville
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes	Councilmembers
	• September 10, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes • No meeting Minutes for September 24, 2024. No meeting was held due to non-quorum.	
VII.	Presentation(s)	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
	City of Walthourville	
VIII.	Agenda Items:	
1.	LCPC Business License Request for Seductive Strands Hair Salon.	Ms. Lori Parks
2.	City of Walthourville Hurricane Helene Information Briefing.	Councilman Robert Dodd
3.	City of Walthourville Millage Rate Follow-up.	Mayor and Council
4.	City of Walthourville Sanitation Privatization Update.	Councilman Mitchell Boston
5.	City of Walthourville Construction Update.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
	Mr. Patrick Golphin	Water Department
	Chief Nicolas Maxwell	Fire Department
	Chief Christopher Reed	Police Department
X.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XI.	Council Comments	Elected Officials
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councilman Mitchell Boston • Councilman Patrick Underwood • Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly • Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette • Councilman Robert Dodd 	
XII.	Mayor Comments	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIII.	Executive Session	None
XIV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate.

All Meeting are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

II. Roll Call: The roll was called by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

*Mayor Pro Tem Lovette entered the meeting at 6:09 PM. She was not present when the roll was originally taken and was added to reflect the time she entered the meeting.

III. Invocation: The invocation was rendered by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in union.

V. Approval of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

VI. Approval of Minutes: The motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2024, meeting was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

VII. Presentation(s)

City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Hayes presented several Certificates of Appreciation to several people who have worked tirelessly for the City of Walthourville. The Certificates were presented to:

Councilman Robert Dodd-Councilman Dodd serves as Liberty EMA Director he rendered excellent communications and assistance through Hurricane Helene.

Brooklyn Jefferson volunteered her time, dedication, hard work and generosity for the city's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Kristin Jefferson for volunteering her time during Walthourville's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Family Outdoor Movies & Party Entertainment for volunteering an array of equipment to include Family Movie Night on Friday September 20th and Saturday September 21st where he provided bounce houses, water slides and other family entertainment, free of charge.

Katie Davis (absent) for sponsoring a variety of delicious food, drinks and desserts for Walthourville's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Stanley and Peggy Wade for volunteering their time for all three events during the 50th Anniversary Celebration including Youth Football Recognition, Movie Night, and 50th Anniversary Fun Day.

Elijah Porter for volunteering his time during Walthourville's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Wakkia Bell for volunteering his time during Walthourville's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Robert Smalls for volunteering his time and talents to prepare delicious top-quality food for all three events.

Mayor Hayes stated these citizens love Walthourville, many of them are not citizens but they want to help and see the city flourish. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Stated he was present to introduce Mr. Todd Kennedy who is a recently hired Planner with LCPC. Mr. Kennedy will handle all items pertaining to Walthourville. Mr. Kennedy stated he was happy to meet everyone, and he was excited for the opportunity to work with the City of Walthourville. He presented a Business License Request for Ms. Tiffany Harris for a Hair Salon, named Seductive Strands Hair Salon. The property is zoned C-3 and will be housed at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway. Ms. Harris addressed the Mayor and Council and stated she has over 25 years of experience. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. City of Walthourville

Councilman Robert Dodd

Stated Hurricane Helene left massive debris throughout Liberty County. Power lines were down, and the city/county was without electricity for several days. He reported that the County and Cities had signed an agreement with a professional debris removal company that will come around to citizens' homes and remove the debris. Citizens should be mindful that the debris must be separated from any additional bulk trash, leaves do not need to be bagged. If any household garbage or bulk trash is mixed with the debris the company will not pick it up. Also, the debris must be outside of the home on the curb. Debris removal will begin on Monday October 14th and they will operate until the debris is gone. If anyone need to make a claim, they need to go to www.disasterassistance.gov or they can contact FEMA at 800-621-3321.

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor and Council

Mayor Hayes stated HB 481 is one the ballot for November 5th and it will impact millage rates. State Representative Al Williams will hold an informational session on Wednesday October 16th at the Liberty County Performing Arts Academy at 6:00 PM. City Clerk, Shana T. Moss informed the council that a summation of the HB was placed on the city's social media site, website and citizens who signed up for city updates received the information. The summation is listed as: Summation of HB 581: This bill makes several changes to Georgia's property tax laws: It revises the definition of "fair market value of property" to clarify how certain property valuations should be determined. It requires Ad Valorem property tax bills to include additional information, such as the estimated "roll-back rate" that would result in no tax increase. It mandates that all parcels in a county be appraised at least every three years. It allows county boards of tax assessors to appeal sales ratio studies under

certain conditions. The bill also creates a new statewide adjusted base year homestead exemption for ad valorem taxes, which would allow a homeowner's assessed value to increase by no more than the inflation rate each year. This exemption would be automatically granted starting in 2025, unless a local government opts out by March 1, 2025 after holding public hearings. Finally, the bill imposes a 2% cap on local sales and use taxes, with exceptions for certain transportation and educational taxes, and allows for a new local option sales tax for property tax relief in certain jurisdictions that have a base year homestead exemption.

Mayor Hayes urged everyone to attend and learn about this important piece of legislation that voters will decide upon on.

4. City of Walthourville

Councilman Mitchell Boston

Reported that Atlantic Waste was given the contract for the Sanitation, their cost breakdown is:

\$ 16.50 per month Sanitation
\$4.00 yard waste
<u>\$3.00 bulk trash</u>
\$23.50 monthly for all services.

The city will hold a town hall meeting for the citizens to ask questions from Atlantic Waste Representatives. This meeting will be held on Monday October 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Fire Department. The council requested that City Hall send letters to all citizens informing them of the Sanitation change. Atlantic Waste sent the letter to Councilman Boston for review. The letter was sent to City Hall personnel at the meeting who will begin the requested distribution.

5. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Reported that construction should begin by the end of October for the 200 homes that will be located adjacent to Hardman Road. The developer will be constructing the home in Phases with the first phase of 100 being constructed.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Water Department

Reported that due to Hurricane Helene the city would not conduct disconnects the month of October. Bills will be monitored from City Hall and citizens with excessively high balances will be contacted.

Chief Nicholas Maxwell

Fire Department

Reported the Fire Department responded to 36 calls, 19 medical and 10 miscellaneous calls. He added that as the 4th quarter of the year began, they are at 96% of their call volume now. Chief Maxwell reported that during Hurricane Helene a transformer caught fire, and it was during the time when the winds were too dangerous for them to venture out. He stated they resumed all activity by 8:00 AM on September 27th, 2024 with the Fire Department checking and clearing the roadways and cutting down trees and limbs. Chief Maxwell gave a word of advice about burning limbs, debris etc., he said if it's not natural vegetation it cannot be burned, man-made materials cannot be burned.

Chief Christopher Reed

Police Department

Reported that he and Major Hooker were attending an Intense Firearms Training Class in Brunswick. This class will allow the department to train and certify officers. They have answered 166 calls, generated 22 reports. He also added that if a traffic signal is out, citizens are to treat the outage as a 4-way stop. Chief Reed stated the Mayor, and another Elected Official contacted him about the traffic light outage on Highway 84 during Hurricane Helene. He stated that Highway 84 is a State Road and

is under the jurisdiction of the State. He stated they put cones and signage out to serve as a guide for motorists.

X. Citizens Comments

Walthourville Citizens

Mrs. Gail Ford addressed the Mayor and Council. She had several concerns, she wanted to inquire about the 12 mills that the Mayor and Council voted on, on October 3rd. She wanted to know why 12 and was the city concerned that citizens could not afford the amount? She expressed that perhaps Walthourville should be annexed into Hinesville because Hinesville already has the programs intact that Walthourville is trying to implement. Mrs. Ford stated it is going to be cheaper to live in Hinesville than it is in Walthourville.

Her second point was the Sanitation Privatization and how would be elected officials hold the agreement and themselves accountable to the citizens. She stated, "when you hold the contract, how can you manage it properly?" If a citizen has a complaint, what will they do? How will the company be graded as to how they're doing? Councilman Boston said this is a change for the city and it certainly has a lot of unknowns. Walthourville is a close-knit city, and this change did not come lightly. It took some time for us to get here." He and the two additional new council members inherited this problem, and they are trying to be part of the solution instead of a problem.

XI. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she would like the park to open. It has been closed due to some debris damage from Hurricane Helene. The football team has been allowed to practice. Mayor Hayes informed her the park is open, the coaches and parents of the football team cleared the debris from the park, and it is open.

Councilman Boston stated he is glad to see citizens come out and he hope they will continue being engaged.

Councilman Underwood spoke about an annexation issue.

Councilwoman Kelly stated she had no report.

Councilman Dodd stated he had talked about debris.

XII. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

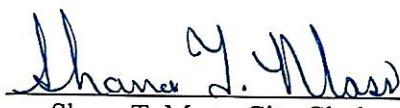
Reminded everyone about HB 581 Town Hall Meeting on October 16th, 2024, at 6:00 PM at Liberty County Performing Arts Center.

XIII. Executive Session

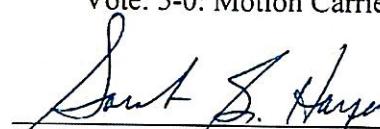
None

XIV. Adjournment: At 7:54 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



**City of Walthourville
Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor**

Elected Officials

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

City Administration

Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works Adm.
Patrick Golphin, Water Supervisor
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

**Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda
October 22, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Appointee
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	In Unison
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes	Councilmembers
	• October 8, 2024----Regular Meeting Minutes	
VII.	Presentation(s)	
	Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division	Mrs. Shyathia Duncan
	City of Walthourville Liberty County Board of Elections Proclamation	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
VIII.	Agenda Items:	None
IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
X.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XI.	Council Comments	Elected Officials
XII.	Mayor Comments	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIII.	Executive Session	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
XIV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate.

All Meeting are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.

**City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. The Roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

VII. Presentations:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Mrs. Shyathia Duncan
Mrs. Duncan stated The Coastal Incentive Grant (CIG) Program is a competitive pass-through subgrant program made possible by a grant to GA DNR from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through Congressional funding pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. Each year, the GCMP allocates a portion of its federal funding to the Coastal Incentive Grants. These subgrants may be awarded to qualified county and municipal governments, regional commissions, state-affiliated research or educational institutions, or state agencies. She stated the city can receive \$80,000 and there is a one-to-one match, with a one-to-one cost share. She communicated that the RFP was distributed in September and the City of Walthourville has never applied. Councilman Dodd asked about project that could be possible be earmarked for this grant and Mrs. Duncan stated small stormwater and floodwater projects. The deadline to apply is December 6, 2024. The Mayor and Council took no action and stated they would review the information.

City of Walthourville Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Mayor Hayes presented a proclamation from Liberty County Board of Elections acknowledging
Elections Workers Week. Election Workers Appreciation Week will be observed November 1st-8th,
2024 throughout Liberty County. Election Workers have faced numerous challenges, unprecedented
events, and have had their integrity and character assassinated. Liberty County Board of Elections
Chairman, Mr. John McIver, Elections Superintendent Mrs. Ronda Walthour and Poll Manager, Dr.

Nancy Franklin was presented with the executed Proclamation. Liberty County Elections Board Members, Ms. Stephanie Woods, Mr. Jeffrey S. Porter, Jr., Mrs. Patricia A. Burley Jackson, Mrs. Linda Martin and Liberty County Board of Elections Employes and Poll Workers for the City of Walthourville were present. Mrs. Walthour lauded Mrs. Sallie Richardson who has been working the polls in Walthourville for over 20 years. Mayor Hayes and City Clerk, Ms. Moss gave tokens of appreciation and gratitude to Chairman McIver, Mrs. Walthour, Dr. Franklin and the Board Members. Funds for the tokens of appreciation were purchased with personal funds not city funds. Mayor Hayes thanked the Board of Elections for their sacrifice and hard work. She stated, "the job you all have is difficult and oftentimes comes with no thanks. We, the City of Walthourville appreciate all that you do."

VIII. Agenda Items None

IX. Department Reports City of Walthourville

Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Stated he had no report and asked if there were any questions. Councilman Underwood stated he has had citizens address him about receiving their bills late. Mr. Golphin stated during the October 8th, meeting he stated there would be no late fees due to Hurricane Helene and the financial impact this poses for the citizens. The billing process from beginning to end was explained in detail. The city's meters are read on the 5th of each month, the bills are compiled in City Hall, rereads are computed, and all data is entered into the city's software system. The bills are electronically uploaded to Spartanburg, South Carolina, and they are mailed out from South Carolina. From South Carolina they are mailed to the Postal Hub in Palmetto, Georgia (outside of Atlanta). The City Hall Team was aware of the bills being received late and they researched the process. The city was sent an article from QS1 about the United States Postal Service and the tardiness of the mail, this information was sent to the Mayor and Council.

The council discussed the lateness of the bills, extending the due date of the bill, and the number of months they would waive the fees. The Council made the following motion. The city will not assess a late fee for the months of November and December 2024 and the late fee will be extended to the 30th instead of the 20th, this motion was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.

Opposed: Councilman Dodd.

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Chief Maxwell gave the Fire Department Statistics and stated the Fire Department was operating well. The Fire Department will be out with the Fire Trucks and distributing candy to the children for Halloween. Chief Maxwell again addressed burning debris and what could be burned. He advised citizens that if it is not natural vegetation, it cannot be burned, man-made materials cannot be burned.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Chief Reed gave the Departments Statistics and provided an update on Officer Carter. He disclosed the specifics about the City's Trunk or Treat Event that will be held at City Hall on October 29th from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM.

X. Citizens Comments: There were none.

XI. Council Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated the park was still in need of repair. She added that only \$4,000 is budgeted for the park from SPLOST Funds.

Councilman Boston stated he has been speaking with Atlantic Waste and he has been in contact with them. He would like to see the contract on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Underwood said he was glad the citizens would not be charged a late fee on the utility bills. He added that Clear Wave was in the city and if a citizen was experiencing problems with them, performing illegal digging at their residence they should call 404-656-4501. Also, he invited everyone out to the Trunk-a-Treat Event on October 29, 2024, from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at City Hall.

Councilwoman Kelly had no comment.

Councilman Dodd stated that the Department of Human Services was in Liberty County to assist individual with applications for DSNAP, which is Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. DSNAP applications are being accepted from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM at the First Baptist Church on Memorial Drive. He also added, FEMA has a Disaster Recovery Site at 6912 East Oglethorpe Highway in Midway for citizens needed to file claims or assistance with Hurricane Helene. The debris pickup is ongoing, and he asked for everyone's patience.

XII. Mayor's Comments Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
She stated that the City of Walthourville does not have a utility company. She invited everyone to visit the Wall that Heals, which is a replica of the wall that is in Washington, D.C.

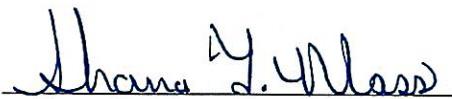
XIII. Executive Session: At 7:20 a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly to enter Executive Session for Real Estate and Personnel.

XIV. Adjournment: At 8:10 PM the meeting was adjourned with the motion being made by Councilman Underwood and the second being added by Councilman Dodd.

At the November 12, 2024 Meeting the October 22, 2024 Minutes were not approved by the Council. Councilman Robert Dodd made the motion to approve and Councilman Mitchell Boston, added the second.

Vote: 2-3: Motion Denied.

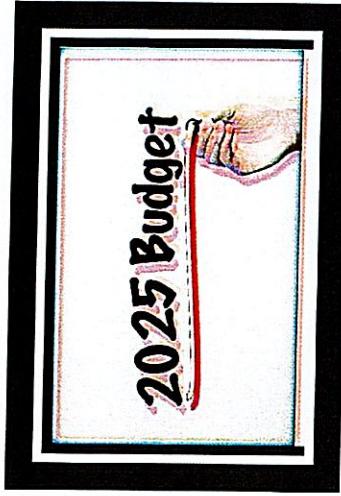
Councilmembers Bridgette Kelly, Luciria L. Lovette and Patrick Underwood voted against the minutes and no reasoning for the denial was given by the Councilmembers.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



City of Walthourville

FY 2025 Budget Meeting Dates

On November 12, 2024, the Mayor and Council approved the following FY 2025 Budget Meeting Dates:

Thursday November 14, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Monday November 18, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Monday December 2, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Walthourville Police Department

Walthourville Police Department

Walthourville Police Department

All meetings are open to the public.



City of Walthourville

Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



Elected Officials

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

City Administration

Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works Adm.
Patrick Golpin, Water Supervisor
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda
November 12, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Invocation
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Approval of Minutes

- October 22, 2024 Regular Meeting
- October 22, 2024 Executive Session

- VII. Presentation(s)

City of Walthourville
Honoring Pastor Christie Conyers-Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Chief Christopher Reed

- VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Business License Request.

Mayor and Council

Mr. Todd Kennedy

2. City of Walthourville

Tax Resolution.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

3. City of Walthourville

Public Utilities Ordinance.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

4. City of Walthourville

Fire Code Resolution.

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

5. City of Walthourville

2025 Mayor and Council Meeting Dates.

Ms. Shana T. Moss

6. City of Walthourville

Sanitation Privatization Contract.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

7. City of Walthourville

Grant Writer.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
- II. The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

The motion to approve the *Regular Meeting Minutes* was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 2-3: Motion Disapproved

Vote: 2-3: Motion Disapproved.

Members voting favorably were Councilmen Boston and Dodd.

Members opposing the vote were: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette, Councilman Underwood and Councilwoman Kelly. Attorney Moses stated to place these minutes in the official minute book as the council disapproving. The regular meeting minutes were taken by City Clerk, Shana T. Moss.

The motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 2-3; Motion Disapproved

Vote: 2-3: Motion Disapproved.

Members voting favorably were Councilmen Boston and Dodd.

Members opposing the vote were: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette, Councilman Underwood and Councilwoman Kelly. Attorney Moses stated to place these minutes in the secured Executive Session File and state that they were not approved by the Council. The Executive Session Minutes were taken by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, the City Clerk was not present in the Executive Session.

VII. Presentation(s):
City of Walthourville Chief Christopher Reed.
Chief Reed honored Pastor Christine Conyers, the Senior Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, located in Hinesville, Georgia. Chief Reed stated in July Pastor Conyers willingly allowed the Walthourville Police Department and other agencies within the area to use their facility for Active Shooter Training.

He stated they also work with Mt. Zion's Security Team. Chief Reed presented Pastor and Deacon Conyers with a gift basket. Pastor Conyers stated she was glad that Mt. Zion could offer their edifice for this much needed training. Pastor and Deacon Conyers took photos with Chief Reed and the Elected Officials.

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Mr. Todd Kennedy

Business License Request

Presented a Business License Request for Henry Lane to operate a consulting business. The applicant is Mr. Patrick Anderson. Mr. Lane stated there would be no customers coming to the home. A room in the home will be used for the business. Mayor Hayes asked would there be any supplies on the property? The applicant stated no, and he added there would be no vehicles except his personal vehicle. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette, asked if there would be any signage? Mr. Lane stated no. The motion to approve the business license was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Tax Resolution for Millage Collection.

Attorney Moses stated he spoke with State Representative Al Williams about the city's decision to move forward with property tax collection for 2024 to be collected in 2025. He stated he was advised by the legislature at the Capitol and that State legislation was not needed to collect property taxes, it only required local legislation which is acquired through the city's charter. Attorney Moses stated he further validated through Ruse Patel, GMA Legal Counsel who stated a city's charter takes precedence. The City of Walthourville's Charter stated that it is permissible for the Mayor and Council to enact a millage; therefore, a Tax Resolution was not needed.

Councilman Dodd stated he doesn't agree with a millage. He stated he doesn't believe the city should have a millage for 2024. He doesn't think it's right or fair to impose this fee on the citizens with such short notice. Councilman Boston inquired, "if we were implementing in 2024 when would the taxes be due? Mayor Hayes stated they would be due in March; however, the Council could vote for an extension. Councilman Boston asked would citizens have to pay 2025 taxes in March or April of 2026. He was told, March of 2026.

Mayor Hayes reminded the Council that the millage for 2024 to be collected in 2025 had been factored into the 2025 budget to balance it. She asked how we will get through 2025 without a millage. Councilman Dodd asked, what are the repercussions if a citizen doesn't pay? What is in place if these fees aren't collected? He stated he feels this isn't fair and it wasn't thought through?

Councilman Boston stated with the collection of the millage this would qualify the city to be in a position to qualify for a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). Mayor Hayes informed the council to be mindful that whatever is borrowed must be repaid by December 31st of the calendar year in which it was borrowed. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she was not included on the initial millage discussions, and she does not believe the city should impose a millage for 2024. Councilwoman Kelly added that she does not agree with the 2024 collection in 2025.

Councilman Dodd made the motion to disregard the 2024 millage and resume Budget Meetings to balance the 2025 budget. The second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

The Council set the dates and time for the additional budget meetings with the motion being made by Councilman Dodd and the second being added by Councilwoman Kelly which will be:

November 14, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

November 18, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

December 2, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

The Council tasked the City Clerk to notify the city's CPA, CKH Consulting, and to advertise the meetings.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. City of Walthourville
Public Utilities Ordinance.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Attorney Moses stated the purpose of this ordinance is to impose and collect a fine (\$1000) from any company that comes into the city to business without notifying the city. Some of these companies will venture into citizens' yards and will damage the citizens private property as well as cause some damage to the city's water lines. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated, "she thought companies had to call before you dig." Attorney Moses stated call before you dig, pertains to the city's water lines and the water department must call 811 before they dig to obtain authorization because cable lines and cellular lines are underneath the ground, now. Mayor Hayes stated more and more companies are hiring subcontractors to perform the work. Attorney Moses referenced pages 8 & 9 of the ordinance, and the Mayor and Council requested specific areas be designated. The Mayor and Council tabled this ordinance until the December 10, 2024, meeting. The motion to table and take no action was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. City of Walthourville
Fire Code Resolution.

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Stated the information that is presented was taken from the State Fire Codes. The purpose of these codes are to ensure the city's buildings and businesses are in compliance. Chief Maxwell stated that there are some businesses in the city that were approved, prior to his tenure with the city, that need to be in compliance. He also referenced the fines that should accompany each violation. The Mayor and Council stated they did not have sufficient time to make a decision, and they voted to table the Fire Codes until the December 10, 2024 meeting. The motion was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

5. City of Walthourville
2025 Mayor and Council Meeting Dates.

Ms. Shana T. Moss

Mayor Hayes presented the 2025 Mayor and Council Meeting Dates. Councilwoman Kelly stated she would like for the dates for the FY 2026 Budget to be established and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette with the following FY 2026 Budget Workshop Dates:

- August 5, 2025 for Budget Workshop # 1
- August 19, 2025 for Budget Workshop # 2
- September 2, 2025 for Budget Workshop # 3

All meetings will be held at the Walthourville Police Department from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

6. City of Walthourville
Sanitation Privatization Contract.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated she has been in contact with the Mayor of Allenhurst and they want their own contract with Atlantic Waste. She referenced Page 2, paragraph 3 and paragraph 4 of the last sentence. Basically, anywhere that Allenhurst appears in the contract it should be removed. The discussion ensued about Allenhurst customers, and the Mayor and Council was informed that some customer get water from the city and others get water from Hinesville. The City of Walthourville collects their trash. The council voted to allow Allenhurst to seek billing alternatives since they will have their own contract from Atlantic Waste. The motion to approve the contract with the above modifications and the City of Walthourville ceasing from billing was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

7. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Hayes stated she has been researching a Grant Writer for the city. She is seeking a Grant Writer that will not cost the city an upfront fee, but their fee will be contingent upon them obtaining a grant and their fee will come from the approved grant. The motion to approve to seek a Grant Writer was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Water Department

Stated he had no report.

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Fire Department

Reported the department responded to 42 calls since the October 22, 2024 Meeting. 32 of these calls were medical. The department participated with Trunk-A-Treat that was held on October 29, 2024. On Halloween the department also took the fire trucks and went into the neighborhoods passing out candy.

Chief Christopher Reed

Police Department

Reported the department responded to 292 calls this year. Since the October 22, 2024 meeting they have written 32 reports. He stated Trunk-a-Treat was a great success.

X. Citizens Comments

Walthourville Citizens

1. Ms. Gwendolyn Dykes stated she wanted to express her concern over the traffic concern at the intersection of Arnall and Talmadge. She stated the traffic is heavy as well as on Arnall and Tibet. She asked the Mayor and Council for a 4-Way Stop.
2. Mr. Jeff (Julie) Dawson stated he had major issue with the Police Department. He stated he has had several cases of theft/shoplifting and the Walthourville Police Department have not been helpful in obtaining warrants for the individuals to be arrested. He referenced a case of theft on October 10th, he has cameras in his store and the individual was identified. Mr. Dawson stated he gave the information to the Department, and they failed to execute. He stated he has a store in Statesboro, Georgia and that department is proactive in arresting and issuing warrants. Mr. Dawson wants to know why the department will not do their jobs. Mayor Hayes asked Chief Reed to elaborate and he stated he cannot speak on pending litigation. Mayor Hayes stated to Mr. Dawson

that she would arrange a meeting with him, Chief Reed and herself. She added that she would be in touch with him about the meeting.

XI. Council Comments Elected Officials
Councilman Boston had no comment.

Councilman Underwood had no comment

Councilwoman Kelly had no comment

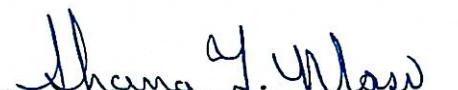
Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she had a question about the Park Revenue. She was given a Financial Report on Johnnie Frasier Park. The Park is in arrears due to the overhead associated with the park such as the security system, portable potty's, park housekeeping and the employee cost of opening and closing the park.

Councilman Dodd had no report.

XII. Mayor Comments Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Reminded everyone about the Recycle Event on November 16, 2024 that will be held in conjunction with Keep Liberty Beautiful (KLB). The Shred truck will be located in Miday at the Midway Complex. KLB will be hosting a tire amnesty day, the city will collect tires and will take them to Midway. She is also talking with Code Enforcement about citations from illegal dumping of tires within the city.

XIII. Executive Session: At 7:48 PM a motion to enter Executive Session for Personnel was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by the Mayor Pro Tem.

XIV. Adjournment: At 8:27 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Boston. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor

IX.	Department Reports	City of Walthourville
	Mr. Patrick Golphin	Water Department
	Chief Nicolas Maxwell	Fire Department
	Chief Christopher Reed	Police Department
X.	Citizens Comments	Walthourville Citizens
XI.	Council Comments	Elected Officials
	Councilman Mitchell Boston	
	Councilman Patrick Underwood	
	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	
	Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette	
	Councilman Robert Dodd	
XII.	Mayor Comments	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIII.	Executive Session	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
XIV.	Adjournment	Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate.

All Meeting are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.



Mayor Sarah B. Hayes



Elected Officials

Mitchell Boston
Patrick Underwood
Bridgette Kelly
Luciria L. Lovette
Robert (Bob) Dodd

City Administration

Nicolas Maxwell, Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Public Works Adm.
Patrick Golpin, Water Supervisor
Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Mayor and Council Meeting Amended Agenda December 10, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call	City Clerk
III.	Invocation	Pastor Richard D. Hayes New Day Community Church-Walthourville, GA In Unison
IV.	Pledge of Allegiance	
V.	Approval of Agenda	Councilmembers
VI.	Approval of Minutes	Councilmembers
	• November 12, 2024 Regular Meeting • November 12, 2024 Executive Session Minutes • November 18, 2024 Special Called Meeting • December 5, 2024 Special Called Meeting	
VII.	Presentation(s) Atlantic Waste	Mr. Sam Sullivan
VIII.	Agenda Items:	
1.	LCPC New Dimensions Christian Fellowship-New Church on Davis Street (Information Only).	Ms. Mardee A. Sanchez
2.	LCPC Mr. Gerardo Aguilera Quadplexes-Request for a waiver from the requirements to install curb and gutter on Arnall Drive.	Ms. Mardee A. Sanchez
3.	LCPC Business License Request for Ms. Bianca Williams for a Cottage Food Business.	Mr. Todd Kennedy
4.	LCPC Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Amendment. (Public Hearing Ad).	Mr. Todd Kennedy
5.	City of Walthourville Fire Code Ordinance and Fees.	Chief Nicolas Maxwell

6. City of Walthourville
2025 Millage Public Hearing Dates.

Mayor and Council

7. City of Walthourville
FY 2025 Budget.

Mayor and Council

8. City of Walthourville
Tree Lighting.

Mayor and Council

9. City of Walthourville
City of Allenhurst IGA.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes & Attorney Luke R. Moses

10. City of Walthourville
Public Utilities Ordinance.

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes & Attorney Luke R. Moses

IX. Department Reports

City of Walthourville

Mr. Patrick Golpin

Water Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Fire Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Police Department

X. Citizens Comments

Walthourville Citizens

XI. Council Comments

Elected Officials

- **Councilman Mitchell Boston**
- **Councilman Patrick Underwood**
- **Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly**
- **Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette**
- **Councilman Robert Dodd**

XII. Mayor Comments

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

XIII. Executive Session

Mayor, Council & City Attorney

XIV. Adjournment

Councilmembers

If an Executive Session is needed, it will be called for (1) Litigation, (2) Personnel or (3) Real Estate.
All Meeting are held at the Walthourville Police Department and are open to the Public.



The City of Walthourville will be closed December 24th and December 25th in observance of Christmas.
The City will resume normal operations on December 26, 2024.

Amended on 12-09-2024 @ 12:32 PM.

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Member Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Loyette

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

VII. Presentation:

Atlantic Waste

Mr. Sam Sullivan

Mr. Sullivan presented information only, he stated Atlantic Waste is prepared to begin the Sanitation contract on January 1, 2025. He added that the routes has been compiled and he presented a map to be

posted at City Hall. The city's current routes for Monday and Tuesday will remain unchanged. However, the city's current Wednesday route is being divided. The Wednesday Collection Route will consist of Dunlevie Road, Hunters Branch, McDonald Ridge and Hampton Ridge Subdivisions. The Thursday Route will consist of Smiley Woods, Shaw Road and connecting roads, Sabreena Circle, Lambert Plantation and the Hamlet. This information will be posted on the city's website and social media site and a map will be placed in City Hall.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. LCPC

Ms. Mardee Sanchez

Presented information only for New Dimensions Christian Fellowship, for their new church on Davis Street. Ms. Sanchez stated and addressed the vicinity map that each elected official was presented in their packet. New Dimension is proposing to build a new church, and they are asking to waive placing curb & gutters. Pastor Henry Frasier was present for the meeting, and he addressed the body and stated the portion they are asking to waive is off Davis Street. This was information only and the New Dimension will have to be presented to the Mayor and Council for action at a later date.

2. LCPC

Ms. Mardee Sanchez

Presented a request for a waiver from Mr. Gerado Aguilera for quadplexes for a waiver from the requirements to install curb and gutter on Arnall Drive. Ms. Sanchez stated he is proposing quadplexes across from Griffin Road. Ms. Sanchez added that the City of Walthourville has implemented the installation of curbs and gutters on new construction. Adam Mainer with Goosecreek Engineering stated his client is requesting leniency for the waiver and to install curb and gutter will cost the developer a minimum of \$10,000 cost increase. Councilman Underwood stated he believes the city should enforce curb and gutters. Mayor Hayes stated eliminating curbs and gutters will have an adverse impact on the city's draining infrastructure. The motion to deny the waiver was made by Councilwoman Kelly with the second being provided by Councilman Underwood.

Vote 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. LCPC

Mr. Todd Kennedy

Was presenting a Business License Request for Ms. Bianca Williams for a Cottage Food Business. Mr. Kennedy stated Ms. Williams had an unexpected interruption and was unable to make it to the meeting. He is asking for this item to be tabled until the January 14th, meeting. The motion to tabled this item was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. LCPC

Mr. Todd Kennedy

Presented a Unified Development Ordinance. This item requires a public hearing. At 6:52 PM a motion to enter into a public hearing was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

There were no speakers present in favor nor were there any opposed.

At 6:53 PM a motion to exit the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

The proposed UDO amendment includes a revision to Table 203.1 in Article 203 to allow for the placement of double wide manufactured homes in the R-8 zone within Walthourville. Councilman Dodd asked if this only affects mobile homes coming in now. He was informed yes. Councilman

Boston stated he is not in favor of mobile homes. He stated mobile homes can have an effect on future developers if they come into the area and see the city saturated with mobile homes. The motion to approve the UDO was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.

Councilmembers voting favorable were: Dodd, Underwood and Kelly.

Councilmember opposed was: Boston.

5. City of Walthourville

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Presented the Fire Code Ordinance and Fees that were given to the Mayor and Council at the November 12th meeting. It was given to allow the Elected Officials time to review and make changes. Chief Maxwell stated this was the State Fire Code and Fees that originated from the State of Georgia and is adopted by most municipalities. Councilman Dodd requested Chief Maxwell change any wording in the document that stated "Fire Chief." He referenced Sections 8.3. 8.8, 8.9, 8.10. The motion to table this item and bring it back to the January 14th, 2025 meeting was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

On December 26, 2024, Chief Maxwell emailed the revision copy to the Mayor and Council.

6. Millage Public Hearings

Mayor and Council

The City of Walthourville will implement property tax and establish a millage in 2025. The new councilmembers Boston, Underwood and Dodd stated the city should have already moved forward with this. Mayor Hayes stated she has frequented the Tax Assessors and Tax Commissioner's office three or more times, and the city had to wait for Liberty to receive the tax digest. She further added that if the city had moved forward without the accurate information it would have been in vain and the city would have had to start over.

Councilman Boston stated he had reviewed the advertising information, and he would like to proceed with Public Hearings. He proposed the following dates and times for the 2025 Millage Public Hearings. Per, State Georgia, a municipality must hold 3 (three) hearings.

Public Hearing # 1 January 2, 2025-12 Noon-1:00 PM @ Walthourville Fire Department

Public Hearing # 2 January 2, 2025- 6:00 PM-7:00 PM @ Walthourville Fire Department

Public Hearing # 3 January 14, 2025-5:00 PM-5:35 PM @ Walthourville Fire Department

The City Clerk will advertise and publish this information. The Motion to approve these dates and times was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

7. City of Walthourville

Mayor and Council

FY 2025 Budget. Section 4.2-4.3 of the City of Walthourville's Charter states that the city must adopt a balanced budget before the start of the next fiscal year. Currently, the city has held six budget workshops with CKH Consulting, the city's CPA firm. Per State of Georgia and the city's Charter the city is required to hold a Public Hearing for the constituents and a Budget Adoption. Meeting to adopt the FY 2025 Budget. The hearing must be held 7 days prior to the budget adoption. The Budget Adoption will be held on Friday December 27, 2024 @ 12 Noon.

1. FY 2025 Budget Adoption will be posted in the Coastal Courier on Thursday December 12, 2024.
2. FY 2025 Public Hearing will be held on Thursday December 19, 2024 from 6:00 PM-7:00 PM at the Walthourville Police Department.

3. FY 2025 Budget Adoption Special Called Meeting will be held on Friday December 27, 2024 at noon at the Walthourville Police Department.

8. City of Walthourville Mayor and Council
Tree Lighting. Mayor Hayes asked the Council if the city would be having tree lighting and if so, what date did they want it to be. Discussions ensued about the time of the lighting with the date of the month already being December 10th. Councilwoman Kelly stated she was sad that the city hasn't already had a Christmas Celebration. Councilman Boston stated he would help Councilwoman Kelly with the event. He will await the date and what is needed.

9. City of Walthourville Mayor Hayes and Attorney Luke R. Moses
City of Allenhurst IGA. Mayor Hayes stated the IGA that the city has with Allenhurst expired during the Mayor Carrie Kent Administration. The Mayor added that she has been communicating with Attorney Moses about drafting an IGA with Allenhurst for Fire Service and Sanitation Collection. With the City of Walthourville privatizing the Sanitation Department, Allenhurst has requested their own agreement with Atlantic Waste. The motion to approve and execute the IGA was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.
Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

10. City of Walthourville Mayor Hayes and Attorney Luke R. Moses
Public Utilities Ordinance. This ordinance will require companies to inform the City when they are in the city performing work. This ordinance originated when cellular and cable companies began venturing onto residents personal property and would begin digging in the citizens yards with no recourse for damages. Several residents have contacted the elected officials complaining and the city did not have a legal binding ordinance to mitigate the damages. The motion to approve the Public Utilities Ordinance was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.
Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

IX. Department Reports

1. Mr. Patrick Golpin Water Department
No Report.

2. Chief Nicolas Maxwell Fire Department
Reported the department has answered 58 calls since November 12th, 2024. They responded to a structure fire in Allenhurst and the city's engine was on scene within 6 minutes. They are also assisting the homeowner with postfire reports.

3. Chief Christopher Reed Police Department
Reported this is the season to be Merry and to be robbed. He advised everyone to please be vigilant, watch your surroundings, and lock your doors and your valuables up. With the upcoming Holiday Season, thieves are out in full force.

X. Citizens Comments

None

XI. Council Comments

Councilman Mitchell Boston had no comments.

Councilman Patrick Underwood had no comment, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly is disappointed there will be no Christmas Tree Lighting

Councilman Robert Dodd reported the post Hurricane Helene Routes in Walthourville for debris removal will take another 10-14 days. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilman Boston added that he is happy the city has a balanced budget. He stated that is one of the reasons he ran for council. Councilman Underwood echoed the same sentiments.

XII. Mayors Comments

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

She Thanked everyone for their support and hard work this year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and she is looking forward to the New Year.

XIII. Executive Session

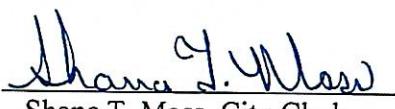
None

XIV. Adjournment

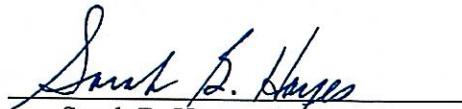
Councilmembers

At 8:08 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor



FY 2025 Budget Adoption Meeting

**December 27, 2024 @ 12 Noon
Walthourville Police Department**

AGENDA

I.	Call to Order	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
II.	Roll Call for Elected Officials	City Clerk
III.	Purpose of Meeting The Budget for the General Fund is \$2,736,468.26 and the Water Fund Budget is \$2,630,100.00.	Mayor Sarah B. Hayes
IV.	Motion to Approve FY 2025 Budget	Mayor and Council
V.	Motion to Adjourn	Councilmembers

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting Minutes FY 2025 Budget Adoption
December 27, 2024 @ 12 Noon
Walthourville Police Department

- I. The meeting was called to order at 12:06 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes. In addition to Mayor Hayes, other members of Council present were:
- II. Roll Call:

Councilman Mitchell Boston (remote)
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilman Robert Dodd

Member Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

III. Purpose of Meeting Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Hayes addressed the Council that the city has held six budget meetings prior to this adoption. The Budget has been balanced by the City's CPA's-CKH with input and guidance from the Elected Body. The FY 2025 General Fund Budget is \$2,736,468.26 and the FY 2025 Water Fund Budget is \$ 2,630,100.00. She asked if there was a motion to adopt the FY 2025 Budget. There was no response, and the motion died. Mayor Hayes asked if there was reason a motion was not made. She asked for the motion again and the motion died a second time. Councilwoman Kelly pivoted and stated she had a question about the city's finances. She had requested a Special Called Meeting prior to this meeting. (Due to the holidays, the meeting could not be advertised properly due to the deadlines of the Coastal Courier). She referenced a transfer that she saw on the city's online banking. Councilwoman Kelly has and was given access by Mayor Hayes. She mentioned a transfer from T-SPLOST to the Water Fund in the amount of \$300,000.00 and she wanted to know why money was being taken from a specialty purpose earmarked account? Mayor Hayes answered, "for bills," and added that it was for a Water Emergency Bills.

Mayor Hayes stated on December 12, 2024 she received a call from the city's Water Team that the city had a major sewer problem on Pamela Drive. After speaking with EPD the city had about 90 minutes act to get this spill contained. The city utilizes EOM; however, the city has outstanding bills from EOM, and they would not assist the city until the bills were paid. Mayor Hayes stated she did not want sewer backed up into citizens home and the city would have incurred fines from EPD that could have been in the millions of dollars.

Councilmembers Boston, Kelly and Underwood stated they were concerned that money was being spent that should not have been spent for this Water Project. And Council should have been informed. Mayor Hayes stated this was an Emergency and she made the best decision she could. The money was spent on EOM. Councilwoman Kelly questioned, "why was \$300K transferred and the money is still in the Water Fund?" Mayor Hayes informed her the city still has bills December 12th that haven't been submitted by EOM and the city must purchase a bypass pump and a lift station pump. These pumps are very costly. The Councilmembers stated the funds are commingled and bills should not be paid with TSPLOST Funds.

Mayor Hayes informed them no routine bills were being paid with these funds. She added that she took full responsibility because she was trying to save the city from additional expenses such as an EPD Fine. Mayor Hayes further added that the Water Fund would have had money but that the Water Fund has been supporting the General Fund for years. Councilwoman Kelly wanted to know why the check could not have been written from the TSPLOST Account. (For informational purposes the TSPLOST is considered a General Fund Account (100) and this emergency was for the Water Fund (505)).

Councilman Boston added that this alludes to what he has been saying the city is overspending and massive cuts need to be made.

Attorney Moses stated he did not have the city's TSPLOST agreement, but he was certain the Water Emergency was an allowable cost as outlined in the agreement. He addressed the council and stated the city's charter specifically stated that the city must adopt a balanced budget each year to remain in State Compliance. He stated the council could always amend the budget in the new year.

Councilman Dodd asked, when we know if we can legally use the TSPLOST Funds? Attorney Moses stated he will research it and the Council can call a Special Called Meeting. Mayor Hayes again, asked if there was a motion to approve the FY 2025 Budget there was no response, and the motion died the third time.

Mayor Hayes asked the council what they wanted to do about the upcoming Budget. Councilman Underwood stated he couldn't support the budget until he knew if the money could be spent, legally. Councilman Dodd stated he wasn't going to approve the Budget because he doesn't support the city charging a Fire Fee. Councilmembers Boston and Kelly stated they couldn't pass the budget because the city needed to make additional budget cuts, and they wanted the department heads to make the necessary budget cuts for their departments.

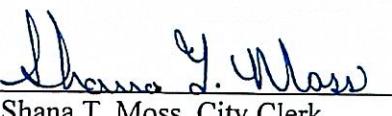
IV. Motion to Approve the FY 2025 Budget Mayor and Council
Attorney Moses again stated the budget could be amended. The Council decided to pass the FY 2025 Budget to remain in compliance but as a contingent consequence to passing the budget they scheduled a Special Called Meeting for January 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM to amend the FY 2025 Budgets. The motion under these conditions was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.

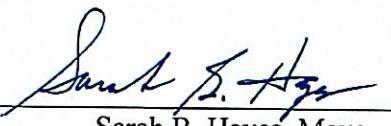
Councilmembers Voting Favorably: Boston, Underwood and Kelly.

Councilmember Opposed: Dodd

V. Motion to Adjourn Councilmembers
At 1:04 PM the motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor