



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
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
Stated he had no report.

Water Department

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

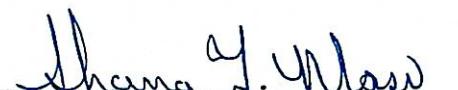
Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she had a question about the Park Revenue. She was given a Financial Report on Johnnie Frasier Park. The Park is in arrears due to the overhead associated with the park such as the security system, portable potty's, park housekeeping and the employee cost of opening and closing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