



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

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| 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' 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
\$3.00 bulk trash
\$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

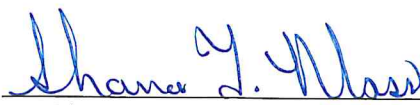
Reminded everyone about HB 581 Town Hall Meeting on October 16th, 2024, at 6:00 PM at Liberty County Performing Arts Center.

XIII. Executive Session

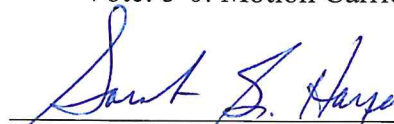
None

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