

**TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE
MUNICIPAL BOARD MEETING**

FEBRUARY 2, 2010

BE IT REMEMBERED and it is hereby certified to that the Mayor and Board of Alderman met on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Hall, this being the time and place of said meeting. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor Grady Sims.

Officials Present:

Mayor	Grady Sims
Alderman	Jerry Darby
Alderman	David Dumas
Alderwoman	Pamela Gill
Alderman	Brian Gomillion
Alderman	Marvin "Chip" Jones
Municipal Clerk	Dennise J. Putnam

Staff Present:

Board Attorney	Jeff Webb
Chief of Police	Carey M. Thomas
Purchasing Agent	Jason Hunt
Deputy Clerk	Carrie Dearman

Others Present:

Local Residents	H.P. 'Temp' Foster
	Evelyn Sims
	Pat Jodon
	Marvin Jones, Jr.
	Johnny Fortune
	Barbara Green
	Shirley Schroeder Jones

Following invocation by Mayor Grady Sims, the following business was transacted to-wit:

NEW BUSINESS:

Memorial Resolution:

The Board of Aldermen presented H.P. 'Temp' Foster a framed resolution commemorating the life his wife, Charlene Foster, and for her years of service to the Town of Walnut Grove. Resolution was written by Municipal Clerk Dennise J. Putnam and presented by Alderwoman Pamela Gill on behalf of the Board. Alderman Brian Gomillion motioned to adopt this resolution and was seconded by David Dumas. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'. (Resolution attached)

Walnut Grove Correctional Authority Board of Commissioners Vacancy Appointment:

**IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE WALNUT GROVE CORRECTIONAL AUTHORITY**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove find that the unexpired term of Walnut Grove Correctional Authority Board Member, Charlene Foster, should be filled.

On motion and second duly made and by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board.

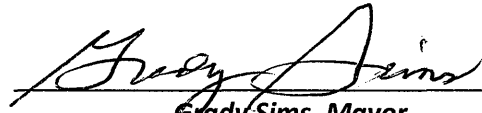
Alderman Jerry Darby	"Aye"
Alderman David Dumas	"Aye"
Alderwoman Pamela Gill	"Aye"
Alderman Brian Gomillion	"Aye"

Alderman Marvin "Chip" Jones "Aye"

IT IS ORDERED that Tonya Barton be and she is hereby appointed to the Board of Commissioners of the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority for the unexpired term of Charlene Foster, and it is further noted that the following named persons are the members of the Board of Commissioners of the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority as appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove:

- Shantell Edwards** - **Term Expires May 31, 2010**
- Tonya Barton** - **Term Expires May 31, 2011**
- Teresa Withers** - **Term Expires May 31, 2011**
- Marvin Jones, Jr.** - **Term Expires May 31, 2012**
- Davis Gill** - **Term Expires May 31, 2012**

SO ORDERED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove, Mississippi in open and regular session on this the 2nd day of February, 2010.



Grady Sims, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dennise J. Putnam, Municipal Clerk

Emergency Repair on Sewer System:

Jason Hunt brought to the Board the issue of the collapsed Sewer infrastructure west of Highway 35 at Sylvanus Street. An emergency repair was required with total costs associated totaling \$24,518.36.

Allen & Hoshall of Jackson provided engineering services. Innovative Services Company (ISC) of Laurel performed the work. Expenses were lessened by the Town purchasing pipe from Consolidated Pipe Service and fill materials through Lynn's Dirt Service directly. Hunt explained additional work may be needed in the future as infiltration becomes a problem and testing may be required to determine the level of infiltration in the system. Motion was made by Brian Gomillion to pay these claims. Motion was seconded by David Dumas. All Aldermen present voted "Aye".

Transfer of Funds:

Municipal Clerk Dennise Putnam requested authorization to transfer \$13000.00 from the Gas Revenue fund to the General Town fund to cover the increased amount of claims due to the emergency repairs on the sewer system. Motion was made by Brian Gomillion to authorize transfer. Motion was seconded by David Dumas. All Aldermen present voted "Aye".

Exploration on the use of other Grant Writing Service Providers:

Following the action on the sewer system repairs, Mayor Sims mentioned to the board that soon it would be time for the next round of CDBG funding and that applications would be due in May.

Alderman Brian Gomillion suggested to the Board that the Town should consider utilizing an alternative grant writer in addition to East Central Planning & Development District. He reminded the board that most Grant Writers work for the administrative fee that is dispensed when a grant is awarded. Therefore, they work extremely hard to get grants for their applicants.

Walnut Grove currently pays a small membership to East Central PPD for grant writing services and then when grants are awarded they receive the administrative services fee. He suggested a new grant writing group might help the Town identify grants that we may not have been aware of in the past and also identify creative ways of seeking funds to construct a new municipal complex. He expressed frustration on the timeliness that ECPPD applications are handled. A frustration that was echoed by Alderman David Dumas with regard to fire department related grants.

After talking to Mayor Jimmy Wallace of the City of Carthage and Mayor Nancy Chambers of the City of Forest, Brian Gomillion suggested the Board consider using the services of Jimmy Gouras Planning Consultants, Inc. for the next round of CDBG funding. Both Mayors said they have been extremely pleased with the professionalism, expertise, and timely communications of this group and would highly recommend them to the Town of Walnut Grove.

Aldermen Brian Gomillion made the motion to utilize the PCI for the next CDBG application round pending no problem with our membership in ECPPD that would prohibit using an additional grant writer. Chip Jones seconded the motion. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'.

Representatives of PCI would be invited to the February 16, 2010, board meeting for a presentation to discuss with the Board the needs of the community and begin work on the CDBG application.

Mobile Home Ordinance:

Mayor Sims suggested that the mobile home ordinance should be revisited by the Board regarding the requirement for a concrete slab for the entire area of the home causing an undue financial burden on the homeowner. Mayor Sims and Town personnel would gather information and propose changes to the board at a later time. No action was taken pending further study.

OLD BUSINESS:**Walnut Grove Day Committee:**

Rose Weathers name was submitted as an addition to the Walnut Grove Day Committee. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Brian Gomillion and seconded by Alderwoman Pamela Gill. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'.

Opening of Bids for Depository:

Only one bid was submitted for the Town of Walnut Grove depository. The Bank of Walnut Grove submitted the loan bid for Town Depository for a two year period. Brian Gomillion made the motion to accept the bid and was seconded by Jerry Darby. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'.

Opening of Bids for Petroleum & Related Products:

Only one bid was submitted for the provider of petroleum and related products for a one year period. Alderman Brian Gomillion made the motion to accept the bid by GOC. Motion was seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'.

Exploration of Purchasing Mobile Leaf Vacuum:

Per prior request of the Board, Jason Hunt presented three different models and pricing for a leaf vacuum for the Town of Walnut Grove to help eliminate clogged culverts and ditches. Personnel to utilize was a concern raised as was the months that the vacuum would sit unused. The board suggested Hunt contact other vendors to have a vacuum brought in for a demonstration and to also explore a leasing option or rental option for months when vacuum need is greatest. No action was taken pending further research and information gathering by Hunt.

Street Lighting:

The previous month, maintenance department and police department were asked to look at areas in the town that might need additional lighting and for any lights that might be not working. No additional areas were reported by personnel. Alderman Brian Gomillion said two areas had been brought to his attention by citizens. One area was along Lindsay Street just south of the intersection with Prince St. The other was an area at the intersection of Hemlock, Reeves and Main with the dark area being down Reeves St toward the Methodist Church. Hemlock and Reeves has a lot of pedestrian traffic and Reeves a lot of vehicular traffic. Additional lighting is needed, he suggested, to prevent a potential accident.

Jason Hunt would contact Mississippi Power to add lighting for these areas.

Safety/Caution Lights on Spruce Street at High School:

After review by the Board Attorney, it was determined that the Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility cannot fund the caution lights at the high school. To not further delay installing these lights and improving pedestrian safety on Spruce Street at South Leake High School, Alderwoman Pamela Gill moved to proceed with purchase and installation. Alderman Brian Gomillion seconded the motion. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'.

Approval of January Minutes:

After review, Alderwoman Pamela Gill moved to approve the minutes from the January 5th and January 14th, 2010 Board of Aldermen Meetings. Motion was seconded by Alderman David Dumas. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'.

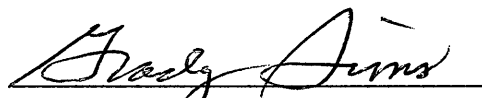
Approval of Claims Docket:

Aldermen David Dumas moved to accept and pay the docket of claims as submitted to the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Jerry Darby seconded the motion. Alderman Brian Gomillion recused himself on Docket Item #368 and voted 'Nay' on Docket Item #293. With Gomillion's exceptions recorded, all Aldermen present voted 'Aye' to approve the docket of claims.

Citizen Comment:

Landowner Johnny Fortune asked the Town to put in a culvert on his land adjacent to the Fish House across from the Fire Station. His property is not accessible from Front or Depot St due to ditches. Mayor Sims would work with Fortune to get access and asked that Fortune clean up the heavy brush and under growth on the property to improve the aesthetics of this area. Fortune said that his plans were to clean up the property if he could gain access across the ditch.

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed until Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at 6:00 PM at which time the Board would meet with Planning Consultants Inc regarding the CDBG funding round and related grant matters, on a motion by Alderman Brian Gomillion and seconded by Alderman Chip Jones. All aldermen present voted "Aye".


Grady Sims, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dennise J. Putnam, Municipal Clerk

**TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE
RECESSED MUNICIPAL BOARD MEETING**

February 16, 2010

BE IT REMEMBERED and it is hereby certified to that the Mayor and Board of Alderman met on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Hall, this being the time and place of said meeting. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor Grady Sims.

<i>Officials Present:</i>	Mayor	Grady Sims
	Alderman	Jerry Darby
	Alderman	David Dumas
	Alderwoman	Pamela Gill
	Alderman	Brian Gomillion
	Alderman	Marvin "Chip" Jones
	Municipal Clerk	Dennise J. Putnam

<i>Staff Present:</i>	Purchasing Agent	Jason Hunt
	Deputy Clerk	Carrie Dearman

<i>Others Present:</i>	Librarian	Linda Bounds
	Local Resident	Lyndzy Bounds
	Planning Consultants	Ann Frazier
		Michelle Moore

Following call to order of the recessed meeting of the Board of Aldermen by Mayor Grady Sims, the following business was transacted to-wit:

Presentation by Jimmy G. Gouras Urban Planning Consultants, Inc. of Vicksburg / Biloxi

Michelle Moore and Ann Frazier of Jimmy G. Gouras Urban Planning Consultants, Inc. (PCI) presented information on their company and the various grants and potential loan programs that the Town of Walnut Grove could be eligible to apply for.

PCI shared their success with communities across the state and touted their six professionals with over 120 years of experience in application and administration of CDBG projects and many other programs. PCI reminded the Board that unlike the Planning Districts, the company only receives pay when a large grant that has an administrative portion is funded. However, PCI would work with the Town on smaller grants as time permitted while working on the larger grant programs. PCI stressed they would only recommend applying for grants that they thought the Town of Walnut Grove had a good chance of being funded.

PCI staff highlighted to the Board of Aldermen the upcoming Community Development Block Grant program with applications due in May. After short discussion between Mayor Sims, Board members, and PCI staff, it was determined that a Water / Sewer project is the most needed and would likely rank the highest in the very competitive grant program of other potential town projects. The small CDBG program has max of 450,000 and is the more competitive of the two CDBG grant programs. However, the larger requires a 50/50 match. PCI reminded the board time is of the essence in beginning the grant application, advertising for services, and doing a community income survey. The board was to develop ideas for determination of what to apply for by the March Board Meeting.

Linda Bounds, Walnut Grove Librarian, spoke to the board regarding recent notice from Mid Mississippi Regional Library System Director Richard Green that Walnut Grove was eligible for 75% grant through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program. She brought a list of needs for the library including:

- Multi-purpose Room or Building Bldg adjacent to Library with Kitchen/Kitchenette**
- Renovation of interior of existing library to make more functional / accessible**
- Additional Space for Books, Storage, Computers and Additional Shelving**
- ADA Men's & Women's Restroom Facilities and Wheelchair accessible ramp/entrance**
- New Lighting in Existing Library**
- Repair to Parking Lot over Ditch where collapsed**

Of note was the need for expansion, which would eligible under the RD Community Facilities Program. PCI and board members were going to investigate further and bring information to next Board Meeting.



town of

Walnut Grove

mississippi

Memorial Resolution

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the following Memorial Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove at its regular meeting on February 2, 2010, as follows:


WHEREAS, Charlene Foster departed this life on the 24th day of December, 2009, and

WHEREAS, Charlene Foster, distinguished herself in public life, serving as Office Clerk and Town Clerk of the Town of Walnut Grove from November, 1967 to July, 1988, and again as Deputy Clerk on July 7, 2009 until her death. She should also be remembered as serving as a member of the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority from 1999 until her death in 2009. She was also recognized as Walnut Grove Woman of the Year in 1991.


WHEREAS, this body politic recognizes and takes note of the progress and achievements of the Town of Walnut Grove during the periods of leadership of Charlene Foster; that in taking the measure of this woman, she was not found wanting or lacking in those areas of life which are of most importance and enduring, to-wit: "a good wife", "a good mother", "an honest, diligent and progressive public official", and most of all, "a servant of God".

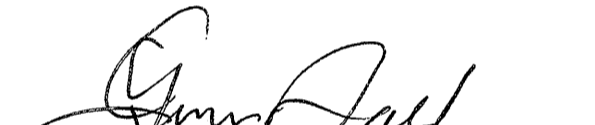
NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen unanimously adopt this Memorial Resolution, ordering that it not only be spread upon its permanent minutes but published in The Carthaginian and a copy furnished to the family of Charlene Foster. Farewell to our good and faithful friend and may God bless the family of Charlene Foster.

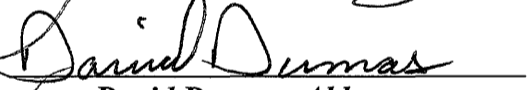
SO ORDERED, this 2nd day of February, 2010.

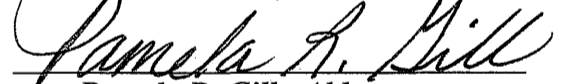

Grady Sims, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dennise Putnam, Municipal Clerk


Jerry Darby, Alderman


David Dumas, Alderman


Pamela R. Gill, Alderwoman


J. Brian Gomillion, Alderman


Marvin "Chip" Jones, Alderman

P. O. Box 366

Walnut Grove, Ms 39189

March 1, 2010

Mr. Jeff Webb

203 South Pearl Street

Carthage, Ms 39051

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this as official notification of my resignation from the Authority Board for the Walnut Grove Correctional Facility effective immediately.

I am honored to have served in the past, but feel at this time that the position might be more appropriately filled with someone that could benefit the position more.

In closing I would like to say that I feel Warden Trippe does a fine job and wish him continued success.

Sincerely,

Marrin Jones Jr.

Following discussion on potential projects for the CDBG program, the Board passed a RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY to advertise to request for proposals for the CDBG program. (resolution attached at end of minutes)

Restructuring of Pay Period / Frequency

To comply with Federal Wage and Hour Board standards, the Town of Walnut Grove voted to adopt a pay schedule of 26 weeks from the previous schedule of 24 weeks. Employees would be paid every two weeks. Also, to comply, any employees that do not supervise or do not work as department heads would be converted to hourly.

Motion made to adopt changes was made by Alderman Brian Gomillion and seconded by Alderman David Dumas. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'

Requests for Approval Travel & Training

Municipal Clerk Dennise Putnam requested approval to attend MML training on Personnel Management & Bonding in Jackson February 24 and 25. This is part of her ongoing clerk certification which is required. On the 26th, she will take her test in Jackson for the MML Ethics & Business Law portion of the certification.

Municipal Clerk Dennise Putnam also requested approval to attend the Municipal Court Training March 4 – 5, 2010 in Tunica. All travel expenses will be reimbursed by the State Court System.

Jason Hunt requested approval to attend Gas Seminar March 8-12, 2010 at Mississippi Natural Gas Association 22nd Annual Trade Show in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Motion was made to approve requested training and travel by Alderman Brian Gomillion and seconded by Alderman David Dumas. All Aldermen present voted 'Aye'.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Development Authority, Division of Community Development has Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds available from its FY 2010 Program; and

WHEREAS, regulations governing the CDBG program allow the utilization of said funds for public facilities improvements, including but not limited to, infrastructure such as water or wastewater improvements, drainage improvements, public buildings, road/street improvements, bridge or other similar public infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove desire to request CDBG funds from the Mississippi Development Authority in order to improve the quality of life of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove deem it to be in the best interests of the citizens of the Town to upgrade public facilities by seeking CDBG funds to serve its citizenry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that:

SECTION ONE: Mayor in and of the Town of Walnut Grove, is hereby authorized and directed to submit an application for CDBG funds, and along with said application, all understandings and assurances contained therein and to provide such additional information as may be required; and

SECTION TWO: Mayor in and of the Town of Walnut Grove, is hereby authorized to publish the necessary notices for Request for Proposals for Administrative Services, Engineering and/or Architectural Services, and Legal Services, all public hearing notices, and any environmental notices, such as "Request for Release of Funds/Finding of No Significant Impact and Floodplain Notices as applicable in accordance with the guidelines governing the CDBG application process; and

SECTION THREE: Mayor in and of the Town of Walnut Grove, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary and pertinent to the application; and

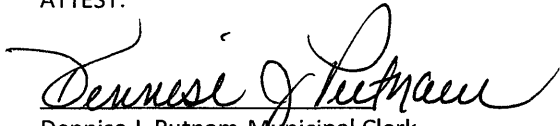
SECTION FOUR: Mayor in and of the Town of Walnut Grove, is hereby authorized to execute a grant offer and any other documents necessary to the acceptance and implementation of the program should the project be approved.

The above and foregoing Resolution, after having been first reduced to writing, was introduced by Board of Aldermen Brian Gomillion, seconded by Board of Aldermen Jerry Darby, and was adopted by the following vote, to wit:

Alderman	Jerry Darby	' AYE '
Alderman	David Dumas	' AYE '
Alderwoman	Pamela R. Gill	' AYE '
Alderman	Brian Gomillion	' AYE '
Alderman	Marvin "Chip" Jones	' AYE '

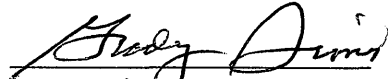
The Mayor thereby declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted on this the 16 day of February 2010.

ATTEST:

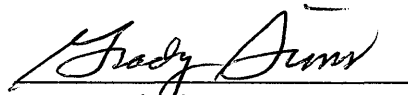


Dennise J. Putnam-Municipal Clerk

With no other business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 7:35.


Grady Sims, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dennise J. Putnam-Municipal Clerk
Grady Sims, Mayor