

TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

BE IT REMEMBERED and it is hereby certified to that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on Tuesday, May 4, 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:	Grady Sims	Mayor
	Jerry Darby	Alderman
	David Dumas	Alderman
	Pamela Gill	Alderwoman
	Brian Gomillion	Alderman
	Chip Jones	Alderman
	Dennise J. Putnam	Municipal Clerk
Staff Present:	Jeff Webb	Board Attorney
	Jerry Millsaps	Interim Town Superintendent
	Mark Tripp	Town Maintenance Department
	Carey M. Thomas	Chief of Police
	Carrie Dearman	Deputy Municipal Clerk
	Todd Thibeault	Contract Water System Operator
Others Present:	Marvin Jones, Jr.	Local Resident
	Mike Johnson	Local Resident
	Barbara Green	Local Resident
	Shirley S. Jones	Local Resident

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

ORDER TO RENEW ANNUAL SUMMER WORKER PROGRAM

There came for consideration the matter of the approval of the motion to renew the annual summer worker program of four (4) 'minimum wage, 32-hour part-time positions' in public works/maintenance, clerk's office, and public library. Mayor Sims, Municipal Clerk Putnam, and Interim Superintendent Jerry Millsaps were authorized to work together filling the positions from applications submitted on behalf of the Board of Aldermen. The program duration is not to exceed four (4) months.

After discussion and upon the motion of Alderman Brian Gomillion duly seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby, the Board moved unanimous approval of the motion to renew the annual summer worker program.

STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT TREE PLANTING GRANT

The Transportation Enhancement Tree Planting Program is a statewide initiative to plant trees for the purpose of enhancing transportation. The program is administered by the Mississippi Forestry Commission with financial support from the Mississippi Department of Transportation and advisory support from the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, Inc.

In February, East Central Planning and Development District staff members Lynetta Cooksey and Jenifer Buford informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the Town of Walnut Grove had been awarded a 2009 Transportation Enhancement Tree Planting Grant of over \$19,000 for plantings along Highway 35 within the municipal limits. Plantings had to be completed and then inspected by Mississippi Forestry Commission no later than April 15, 2010.

Mayor Sims updated the Board that ECPPD failed to request a Mississippi Department of Transportation permit until April 12, 2010, resulting in insufficient time to purchase and plant the over 500 crepe myrtles along Highway 35 to meet the April 15 deadline. Thus, the grant could not be utilized. Board Members pledged, if the program was offered in 2010, to reapply and more closely monitor execution of the any grant award.

ORDER TO APPLY FOR USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR LIBRARY EXPANSION

There came for consideration the matter of the approval of the motion to formally apply for a United States Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grant for the expansion and improvement of the Walnut Grove Public Library. The United States Secretary of Agriculture designated \$100 million of USDA's Community Facilities funds for public libraries as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This stimulus funding special designation is designed to help communities of 20,000 or less the opportunity to improve their library facilities, enhance educational opportunities, and improve economic conditions in America's rural communities.

After discussion and upon the motion of Alderman Brian Gomillion duly seconded by Alderman David Dumas, the Board moved unanimous approval of the motion to have Jimmy Gouras Urban Planning Consultants, Inc, the Town's grant writers, apply for a USDA Rural Development Grant of up to \$550,000 for library improvements and expansion.

ORDER TO APPLY FOR USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN FOR LIBRARY EXPANSION

There came for consideration the matter of the approval of the motion to formally apply for a United States Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Loan for the town's 25% match of the USDA Grant for the expansion and improvement of the Walnut Grove Public Library. Mississippi Development Authority had deemed the project ineligible for a CAP Loan.

After discussion and upon the motion of Alderman Brian Gomillion duly seconded by Alderman David Dumas, the Board moved unanimous approval of the motion to have Jimmy Gouras Urban Planning Consultants, Inc, the Town's grant writers, to apply for a USDA Rural Development Loan, of up to \$200,000, for library improvements and expansion.

STREET OVERLAY PHASE III UPDATE

Beginning, in October 2009, the Board of Aldermen designated \$5000 be set aside per month for purpose of completing the third phase of street overlays in Summer 2010. Mayor Sims and Interim Superintendent Jerry Millsaps agreed to develop updated overlay list and estimate prior to May 11 recessed meeting.

ADDITIONAL OVERTIME FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT DUE TO PEAK IN CRIME

The Board was informed that increased overtime due to double coverage in afternoon shifts in mid-April had caused the police department to be off budget. After short discussion, the board agreed to address when budget would be amended in July.

SEWER LIFT REPAIRS ON SYLVANUS STREET AND LAGOON AERATORS

To repair the sewer lift on Sylvanus Street it was estimated that the job would cost \$21,000. The contractors performing the repairs will be Innovative Services Company and B-Clean.

Local resident Mike Johnson asked that property owners around the area being repaired be notified by certified mail as to what is being done to repair problems and what the problems were. Municipal Clerk Dennise J. Putnam agreed to send letters to the property owners. Once timeline received for repairs from ISC, certified letters will be mailed to all property owners.

Interim Superintendent Jerry Millsaps came before the Board stating that work needs to be done on aerators at sewage lagoon. He said only one out of six is working causing foul odor around town.

ALLEY WAY CLEARINGS AND UPKEEP

Walnut Street resident Mr. Lindsey requested that something be done about clearing the alley ways of danger trees. Given the potential expense if the town cleared all trees in alleys, board attorney Jeff Webb was asked to look into how alleys could be closed without all adjoining parties having to agree. Closing alleys would return the alley way to the adjoining property owners and back onto the tax rolls.

WATER / WASTEWATER OPERATOR

There came for the consideration the matter of hiring a Water / Wastewater Operator for the Town of Walnut Grove by Mayor Sims. Mayor Sims brought the name of Todd Thibeault of Lake who has been the contract water operator and part-time police officer for the Town since Fall 2009. He brought to the Board's attention that Thibeault was interested in the position and that he is licensed in water, but not wastewater.

The Board reviewed other applications. After review Alderman Chip Jones moved to hire Walnut Grove resident Jason Gilbert as "Water-Sewer Operator." The motion was duly seconded by David Dumas and approved unanimously by the Board.

Alderman Chip Jones motioned to set Gilbert's pay of \$14.90 per hour. The board noted that this hire would not be reviewed for annual raise in July but would look again after the wastewater school had been completed and at the July 2011 salary review. Alderwoman Pamela Gill seconded the motion on hourly rate. All alderman present voted 'Aye'.

Gilbert would be taking his water operator class in late May and wastewater in Fall 2010. MS DEQ was to be contacted once Gilbert began work to see if an additional 180 grace-period would be given till he could take his wastewater school/test or if the Town would need to hire an interim Class II or greater wastewater operator.

ORDER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

There came for consideration the matter of the approval of the motion approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of April 6, 2010.

After discussion and upon the motion of Alderman Jerry Darby duly seconded by Alderwoman Pamela R. Gill, the Board moved unanimous approval of the motion to approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of April 6, 2010.

ORDER TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS DOCKET

** Before discussion of the approval of the Claim: C & C Grocery, Alderman Chip Jones recused himself from the discussion and left the room.*

There came for consideration the matter of the approval of the motion to approve Claims Docket as of April 30, 2010. After discussion and upon the motion of Alderman Brian Gomillion, duly seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby, The majority of the members present and voting, moved approval of the motion to pay Claims Docket as of April 30, 2010. Recused from discussion and voting on Claim No. 479 'C & C Grocery' was Alderman Chip Jones. Alderman Brian Gomillion was recorded as voting 'Nay' on Claim No. 466 'United Life Insurance.'

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM INTEREST

Local Resident Mike Johnson expressed interest in beginning a Crime Watch / Neighborhood Watch Group. Mayor Sims asked Police Chief Thomas to look into program and communicate information found within next few days.

MENDROP-WAGES

After brief discussion regarding their work on the CDBG Project application, their local office in Carthage, and very positive relationship with MDA and other agencies, Alderman Brian Gomillion moved the Town of Walnut Grove select Mendrop-Wages of Ridgeland as the town's engineering firm for all necessary engineering and related services. David Dumas duly seconded the motion, and the board approved unanimously. Mendrop-Wages would be invited to make a presentation at the first regular board meeting in June.

MONTHLY REPORTS
Municipal Court Clerk Report

April 1 – April 30, 2010

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Total Cases: 7
 Fines Collected: \$ 1034.50

• **Police Department Activity Report**

SHIFT	DAY-1	DAY-2	NIGHT-1	NIGHT-2	OTHER	Average per shift	Dept. TOTAL
Officer	THOMAS	LEWIS	COOKS	LEE	Part-Time		
Mileage Patrolled:	600	1,323	1,282	1,144	NR	1,087	4,349
Tickets Issued:	4	5	6	4	NR	5	19
Total Calls:	6	26	7	14	NR	13	53
Total Arrests:	3	2	None	1	NR	2	6
Total Stops:	3	7	None	12	NR	6	22
Incarcerations:	None	None	None	None	NR	0	0

• **Fire Department Activity Report April 1 – April 30, 2010**

	LOCATION		
	In-Town	Outside	Total
Fire-Structure		2	2
Fire-Vehicle			
Fire-All Other	1	1	2
Medical Assistance			
Motor Vehicle Accident	1		1
Weather Related			
All Other			
TOTALS	2	3	5

No. of Active Volunteers
 Average Volunteers per Call

• **Building Permits Issued**

April 1 – April 30, 2010

Mike Johnson – 103 Golden Ave
 Doris Henson - Main St

• **Privilege Licenses Issued**

April 1 – April 30, 2010

None Issued

• **Municipal Fund Balances**

Ending April 30, 2010

GENERAL TOWN	\$	46,594.98
GENERAL TOWN M/M	\$	73,859.84
WATER-SEWER REV	\$	42,391.69
WATER -SEWER M/M	\$	2,393.93
GAS SYSTEM REV	\$	365,973.43
GAS SYSTEM M/M	\$	44,430.11
RECREATION	\$	47980.53
TOWN HALL CONSTRUCTION	\$	10006.26

At 7:20 PM, there being no further business and on a motion made by Alderwoman Pamela Gill, duly seconded by Alderman Brian Gomillion, the Board moved unanimous approval to stand in recess until Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at 6:00 PM.

TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE
MINUTES OF THE RECESSED MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

BE IT REMEMBERED and it is hereby certified to that the Mayor and board of Alderman met on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Hall, this being the time and place of said meeting.

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

Others Present:	Mike Johnson	Local Resident
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Following the call to order by the Mayor Grady Sims, the following business was transacted to-wit:

MS PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS) PARTICPATION ISSUES

In September 2009, the Town of Walnut Grove was informed it was not compliant with the agreement signed in 1988 for the Town of Walnut Grove to participate in the Mississippi Public Employment Retirement System (PERS). PERS informed officials, that from the time in 1988 when the Mayor and Clerk signed the agreement, the town should have been paying the EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION on all full-time employees and all elected officials. According to the agreement signed, all were to participate. There was no election process, it was mandatory.

Communications from PERS officials with current clerk, Dennise Putnam, revealed PERS intended to collect the contributions that should have been paid since 1988. After initial negotiations, by Putnam, with PERS, three options were presented as a solution to correct the significant error and correct going forward. Without negotiation, the Town could have been forced to repay employer contributions on all living and deceased officials since 1988.

Solution 1: Keep existing 1988 Agreement in place. Town to pay employer contributions on all living aldermen that employer contributions were not paid.

Solution 2: Adopt resolution with participation beginning 10/1/2009.

Solution 3: Adopt resolution with participation date in future. Return contributions paid since 10/1/2009.

Central Service District Field Representative for PERS, Jean Clark, attended the meeting and answered general questions regarding PERS and participation in. She also informed the board of the increase of employee contribution rate after the legislature changed the rate earlier in 2010.

After discussion, Alderman Brian Gomillion moved to proceed with Solution 1 stating "the town needs to follow through with the agreement made with PERS in 1988." Alderman Chip Jones seconded. All aldermen present voted 'Aye'.

STREET OVERLAY PHASE III UPDATE

Mayor Sims brought update on estimate for overlay of streets. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk Putnam suggested the overlay could be paid for from transfers from gas revenue, street tax monies, and money that had been designated monthly since October in general town. Initial estimates were from \$150,000 – 170,000.

The list of streets presented to be paved 2" in thickness as follows:

1 Cole	14 x 791	8 Mills	14 x 378
2 East	18 x 1092	9 Oak	14 x 730
3 Gill	12 x 675	10 Reeves	18 x 1430
4 Hammons	14 x 198	11 Richmond	12 x 502
5 Hunter	14 x 555	12 Roberts	12 x 425
6 Lindsay	18 x 1550	13 Stubbs	12 x 181
7 Maple (from Golden to Reeves)	14 x 360	14 Walnut	18 x 366

(9233' of paving length at various widths represents 1.75 miles in length of street overlay)

After brief discussion and upon the motion of Alderman Brian Gomillion duly seconded by Alderman David Dumas, the Board moved unanimous approval of the motion to advertise for bids on third phase of street resurfacing on said designated streets as presented.


OTHER BUSINESS

Alderman David Dumas moved to approve travel reimbursement and class training fees for Jason Gilbert who would be attending Water Operator School the week of May 24, 2010. Motion was duly seconded by Alderman Chip Jones, and approved unanimously by the Board.

Since the last board meeting, Local Resident Mike Johnson had talked with other communities and law enforcement officials regarding establishing a neighborhood watch program. He suggested a core group would be meeting soon to discuss and form a local program and welcomed and needed input from the Board. He suggested the program would be modified to fit the needs / wishes of Walnut Grove.

Board members urged staff to follow through and put KEEP OFF signs on the stage and remind ALL police officers to be observant and keep area patrolled.

At 7:31 PM, there being no further business and on a motion made by Alderman Chip Jones, duly seconded by Alderman Brian Gomillion, the Board moved unanimous approval to adjourn.

Attest


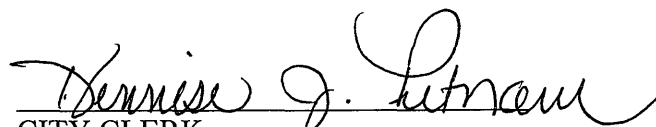
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Walnut Grove, Mississippi will receive written sealed bids at its regular meeting place in the City Hall of the Town of Walnut Grove, Mississippi until 5:00 P.M. on the 6th day of July, 2010, with bids to be opened shortly thereafter, for the following:

Purchase and application of hotmix asphalt in place on approximately 9500 feet of designated streets in the Town of Walnut Grove, Mississippi in accordance with or equal to the Instructions to Bidders and Specifications on file in the Office of the City Clerk of the Town of Walnut Grove. Copies of the Instructions to Bidders and Specifications may be obtained at no charge by contacting the Dennise Jones-Putnam, City Clerk, P.O. Box 236, Walnut Grove, Mississippi 39189 or by calling (601) 253-2321.

The Board is acting under the authority of Section 31-7-13, Miss. Code of 1972, as amended, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

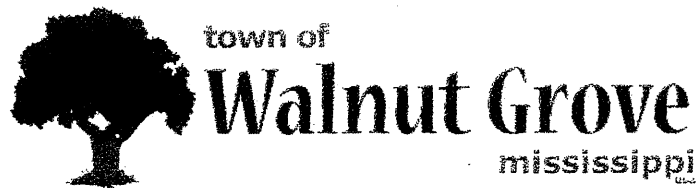
Published by Order of the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Walnut Grove, Mississippi, this the 27 day of MAY , 2010.


CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

[Publish two times May 27 and June 3, 2010]

{Bill Town of Walnut Grove}



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
AND ASSOCIATED BUSINESSES IN THE TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE**

WHEREAS, the Town of Walnut Grove is a small, rural community in southeast Leake County, Mississippi, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Walnut Grove and surrounding areas continue to need and deserve access to quality healthcare and related services, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove welcome investment into our community by individuals, businesses and organizations that positively impact the quality of life, health, and safety of our citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove recognize the positive impact on our economy by businesses and facilities that draw people from beyond our municipal limits and across county lines.

WHEREAS, there existed the need to keep a Mississippi Driver's License Testing Station in Leake County, the need for a facility to house the Eight Circuit Judicial Drug Court, and the need to maintain and keep viable Golden Memorial State Park through difficult fiscal times, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and taxpayers of Walnut Grove rose to the occasion and continue to do so benefiting not only the Town but the region, and

WHEREAS, Sta-Home, Moore's Pharmacy, Central Medical Equipment, and others have establishments in the Town and provide needed health care related services and goods, and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Locke and the healthcare professionals at East Central Mississippi Health Care's Walnut Grove Medical Clinic continue to very ably serve the healthcare needs of many in this area, in conjunction with their Sebastopol Medical Clinic, and his affiliation with Crossgates River Oaks in Brandon, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Doug Perry and his team of healthcare professionals also very ably serve this area first through Leake Memorial Medical Clinic, formerly associated with Leake Memorial Hospital in Carthage, and now continue serving as Walnut Grove Medical Associates, in affiliation with Neshoba General Hospital, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Walnut Grove recognizes the importance of all businesses and organizations operating in our community that improve the quality of life and safety of our people and strengthens the economic vitality of this area,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen salute and support the important services ALL of the healthcare community provides to our people,

AND THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN investments and operations that positively impact our Town are welcomed and appreciated.

SO ORDERED, this 1st day of June, 2010.

Grady Sims, Mayor

Dennise Putnam, Municipal Clerk

Jerry Darby, Alderman

David Dumas, Alderman

Pamela R. Gill, Alderwoman

J. Brian Gomillion, Alderman

Marvin "Chip" Jones, Alderman