

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

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

BE IT REMEMBERED and it is hereby certified to that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met on Tuesday, June 1, 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:	Jerry Millsaps	Interim Town Superintendent
	Mark Tripp	Town Maintenance Department
	Jason Gilbert	Water-Sewer Operator
	Carey M. Thomas	Chief of Police
	Chad Wages, P.E.	Mendrop-Wages
	Randy Jones	Mendrop-Wages
Others Present:	Vernon R. Cotten	Circuit Judge, Eighth District
	Marvin Jones, Jr.	Local Resident
	Mike Johnson	Local Resident
	Rev. Larry Weathers	Truelight Baptist Church
	Carl Hathorn	Truelight – Walnut Grove Park
	Johnny Fortune	Local Resident

Following invocation by Judge Vernon R. Cotten, the following business was transacted to- wit:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Judge Vernon R. Cotton: Drug Court Update and November 2010 Election
 Circuit Judge Vernon R. Cotten spoke briefly to the Board of Aldermen on the successes of the Eight Judicial Drug Court and reminded those present he is seeking re-election to a fourth term as Circuit Judge. The judge thanked the Town for providing a facility for the Drug Court Staff in Old Town Hall on Pine Street since its inception in 2003. He also spoke of his time as Attorney to the Board of Aldermen prior to his appointment as Judge in 1997.

Rev. Larry Weathers – Carl Hathorn: Truelight-Walnut Grove Park Update
 Rev. Larry Weathers and Coach Carl Hathorn updated the Board of Aldermen on progress at Truelight-Walnut Grove Park and thanked the town again for the \$20,000 in recreation funds given through inter-local agreement to Leake County for equipment, improvements, and basic infrastructure needs at the park. Both spoke of programs planned for the park and potential activities to help raise revenue for operations. They provided a list of the Truelight – Walnut Grove Park Committee and requested the Town of Walnut Grove appoint three members to the committee from within the municipal limits. Four committee members had been appointed by the Truelight Community (LeRan Ealy, Addie Lou Hudson, Arthur Gardner, and Vanessa Ealy) and three had been appointed by Leake County Supervisor Davis Gill (David Willis, Dexter Mann, Randy Stokes).

Mike Johnson Development Assoc Report / Neighborhood Watch
 As the Town of Walnut Grove member of the Leake County Development Association Board, Mike Johnson updated the Board on recent training board members had been through to prepare for prospect visits. He encouraged town leaders to utilize the Development Association's resources and to update and keep the town's information, especially utilities, current with the Association. He

remarked that much of the work of the Association is confidential when working with prospects. The board thanked Mike for his report and continued service.

Mike also updated Town Leaders on his investigation into beginning a neighborhood Watch Program in Walnut Grove. He noted that the program could be modified to use what parts fit the needs of the Town of Walnut Grove and surrounding area. He asked each Board Member submit two names that would agree to work on the start-up committee to get the core program started. He had spoken with two police chiefs in other communities to gather information. Once the program was organized, the town would likely be asked to help with the purchase and placement of Neighborhood Watch signs. Each board member agreed to ask two persons to serve and support the program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mendrop-Wages Presentation

Chad Wages of Mendrop-Wages, the town's new consultant engineering firm, spoke on services and programs available to the Town of Walnut Grove and their on-going relationships with the state and other entities and project history. Over the next few months, MW would work with Town staff to gather information system information with later plans in developing a long range plan for participation in SRF Water and SRF Sewer loan program and maximizing town dollars for best infrastructure benefit. He also spoke of using the Town's contacts at the state and federal level to see direct appropriations on specific projects when feasible.

Wages also commented the CDBG Application had been submitted on May 28th to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) by Jimmy Gouras Urban Planning Consultants. He noted even though budgets are tight at both state and federal levels, the initial application for the CDBG project should get favorable consideration.

Appointments to Truelight-Walnut Grove Park Committee

After brief discussion of possible appointees, Alderman Brian Gomillion moved to appoint Tonya Barton, Cindy Jones, and Mike Johnson to serve on the TWG Committee. If appointees agreed to serve, they would be asked to attend first meeting, Thursday, June 3, 6:30 PM at Truelight Church. Alderman David Dumas duly seconded and all alderman present voted 'Aye.'

On a motion made by Alderman Brian Gomillion, duly seconded by Alderman David Dumas, the following residents would be appointed, pending their acceptance to serve: Tonya Barton, Cindy Barton, and Mike Johnson.

ARCHITECT FOR USDA GRANT AND LOAN APPLICATION

There came for consideration the matter of the approval of the motion to formally enter into a contract for architectural design services to be completed for the USDA Loan and USDA Grant for expansion of the library.

Alderman Brian Gomillion moved to authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an agreement with Joseph Orr and Associates for architectural services for the USDA Loan and USDA Grant.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY IN WALNUT GROVE

There came for consideration of the resolution offered by Alderman Brian Gomillion to express support for the healthcare community in Walnut Grove.

On a motion to approve by Alderman David Dumas, duly seconded by Alderwoman Pamela Gill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

**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.

Mississippi Municipal League Conference

Municipal Clerk Dennise J. Putnam reminded the board of the MML Annual Conference slated for June 27 – July 2, 2010. Alderwoman Pamela R. Gill, MML Board Member, was designated voting delegate for annual conference. Alderman Chip Jones was designated as alternate.

Municipal Tax Collections

There came for consideration for the approval of an interlocal agreement between the Town of Walnut Grove and Leake County for the collection of municipal property taxes by the Leake County Tax Assessor – Collector for convenience of citizens and more efficient handling.

Alderman Brian Gomillion moved the Town of Walnut Grove enter into local agreement for Leake County to collect municipal property taxes for the town. Motion was duly seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby. All members present voted "Aye".

Unlocking Vehicles by Police Department

There came for consideration for the approval of ending the policy of opening locked vehicles by the Walnut Grove Police Department due to liability reasons. The Police Department would only open vehicles in a life-threatening emergency.

Motion was made by Alderman Brian Gomillion to cease the policy of opening locked vehicles by the police department with exception of emergency, duly seconded by Alderman Chip Jones, and approved unanimously by the Board.

Naming of Public Works Director

There came for the consideration for the creating the position of Public Works Director for the Town of Walnut Grove. The PWD would be responsible for the town's day-to-day operations and other duties not currently assigned to the municipal clerk or police chief. The public works director would report directly to the board, required to attend all board meetings as a department head, and is a salaried position.

On a motion by Alderman David Dumas, duly seconded by Alderman Chip Jones, and approved unanimously by the board, Water-Sewer Operator Jason Gilbert was named to the position of Public Works Director.

Public Works Business

There came for consideration the matter of the manhole that had recently been filled with concrete. Public Works Director, Jason Gilbert, said that it was fixed; however, they were still having trouble with the pumps because they were not hooked up properly. The contractor said there was still concrete in a pipe. It was noted that this could lead to more problems eventually and needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Also the pumps that were not running have now been fixed by Jerry Milsaps. It was discussed how to fix these problems. It was decided that a contractor should be brought in to fix the manhole because the town does not have enough man power to do so, and the pipes that have concrete in them could be fixed by town workmen without outside help. As for the matter of Bobby Glass it was decided that it would be investigated to see who contacted him to perform a job. It was also noted to not use ISC for any future jobs.

There came for consideration the matter of the aerators. According to Public Works Director Jason Gilbert, only one out of six of them were running. He said he wanted to try to salvage three of the aerators so that the town would not have to spend any money on them till later.

It also came for consideration the matter of annual mosquito spraying for the town. It was decided that the public works men begin spraying this month.

The next matter that came forth for consideration was the matter of wastewater treatment. It was proposed that the industrial and commercial accounts rates be changed to one and a half times the rate in the next billing cycle. This was proposed due to the cost of treatment. Due to the variety of businesses it was decided to create different commercial accounts depending of business types. It was

also decided that a rate analysis would need to be done later in the future. This motion was made by Alderman Jerry Darby and seconded by David Dumas. All voted in favor by saying 'Aye'.

Order to Move into Closed Session

There came for consideration the matter of the approval of the motion to move into a closed determination session. Alderman Chip Jones moved to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Aldermen Brian Gomillion seconded motion. All aldermen present voted 'Aye'. Remaining for executive sessions were Aldermen Brian Gomillion, Chip Jones, Pamela R. Gill, Jerry Darby, and David Dumas, Mayor Grady Sims, Clerk Dennise Jones, and Public Works Director Jason Gilbert

Executive Session

There came for consideration the matter of infractions in job performance by Deputy Clerk Carrie Dearman. Carrie Dearman was not present. It was decided by a unanimous vote of All Alderman to ask her for her resignation. If she refused to resign immediately, her keys were to be taken from her, and she was to be restricted from the building.

It was also moved that following Carrie Dearman's dismissal the locks on all the doors would be changed.

ORDER TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

There came for consideration the matter of the approval of the motion to move out of executive session. After discussion and upon the motion of Alderman Chip Jones, seconded by Alderman Brian Gomillion.

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 May 4 and May 11, 2010.

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 approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of May 4, 2010 and recessed meeting May .

ORDER TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS DOCKET

** Before discussion of the approval of the Claim: C & C Grocery, Alderman Chip Jones excused 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 Jerry Darby, duly seconded by Alderwoman, The majority of the members present and voting, moved approval of the motion to pay Claims Docket as of May 31, 2010 with board unanimously excluding payment for claim from Bobby Glass. Recused from discussion and voting on Claim 'C & C Grocery' was Alderman Chip Jones. Alderman Brian Gomillion was recorded as voting 'Nay' on Claim No. 650 'United Life Insurance.'

MONTHLY REPORTS

• **Municipal Court Clerk Report**

May 1 – May 31, 2010

Total Cases: #8
 Fines Collected: \$899.00

• **Police Department Activity Report**

SHIF	DAY-1	DAY-2	NIGHT-1	NIGHT-2	OTHER	Average per shift	Dept. TOTAL
Officer	THOMAS	LEWIS	COOKS	LEE	Part-Time		
Mileage Patrolled:	800	1245	1443	1489	NR		4177
Tickets Issued:	0	1	5	3	NR		9
Total Calls:	6	21	2	23	NR		52
Total Arrests:	1	0	2	2	NR		3
Total Stops:	0	6	2	7	NR		15
Incarcerations:	0	0	0	0	NR	0	0

• **Fire Department Activity Report**

May 1 – May 31, 2010

	LOCATION		
	In-Town	Outside	Total
Fire-Structure	2	0	2
Fire-Vehicle	0	0	0
Fire-All Other	1	0	1
Medical Assistance	1	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accident	1	0	1
Weather Related	0	0	0
All Other	2	0	2
TOTALS	7	0	7

No. of Active Volunteers : 12
 Average Volunteers per Call: 7

• **Building Permits Issued 0**

May 1 – May 31, 2010

• **Privilege Licenses Issued 1**

May 1 – May 31, 2010

• **Municipal Fund Balances**

Bank Statements Not Rcvd

GENERAL TOWN	\$	44,353.12
GENERAL TOWN M/M	\$	81,376.89
WATER-SEWER REV	\$	51,873.52
WATER -SEWER M/M	\$	2,394.44
GAS SYSTEM REV	\$	392,181.14
GAS SYSTEM M/M	\$	44,439.54
RECREATION	\$	50,991.27

At 7:40 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 adjourn.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE TO APPLY FOR FUNDING UNDER THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE HEREBY
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Development Authority's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) provides funding for improved energy efficiency in the state of Mississippi to eligible cities and counties through funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; and

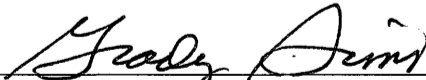
WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove authorizes the Town of Walnut Grove to apply for grant funds under this program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove recognizes that the support of the Board of Aldermen is fundamental to the success of any program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove will fully support the EECBG application and will fully comply with all EECBG and ARRA regulations and requirements, including monthly reporting, use of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager software as described in the EECBG Funding Opportunity Announcement, Davis-Bacon wage requirements, Buy American requirements, National Environmental Protection Policy Act Requirements, and historical preservation requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ~~the Town Clerk~~ the Mayor, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the Town of Walnut Grove; all necessary documents to implement and carry out the purpose of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6 day of July
2010.



Mayor of the Town of Walnut Grove, MS

ATTEST:



Town Clerk of the Town of Walnut Grove, MS

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