

**TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE**  
**REGULAR MEETING of the MAYOR and BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**MAY 1, 2012**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove met in Regular Session on the 1st day of May, 2012, at six o'clock in the evening (6:00 p.m.) in the Walnut Grove Public Library Auditorium, 146 Main Street, this being the time and place of said meeting.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following were recorded in attendance:

***ELECTED OFFICIALS***

<b>Mayor</b>	Brian Gomillion	<b>Alderman</b>	Pamela R. Gill
<b>Alderman</b>	Chip Jones	<b>Alderman</b>	
<b>Alderman</b>	Jerry Darby	<b>Alderman</b>	
<b>Municipal Clerk</b>	Dennise J. Putnam	<b>Alderman</b>	

***STAFF***

<b>Public Works Director</b>	Jason Gilbert	<b>Chief of Police</b>	Kevin Polk
<b>Court Clerk</b>	Michelle Anderson		

***GENERAL PUBLIC***

Mike P. Johnson	Linda Bounds	Davis Gill	Chester Green
Davis Gill	Marabeth Carter	Pat Dugan	Debra Petty
Terry Mann	Willie J. Barton	Arthur Gardner	Danny Cohill

**AGENDA**

Municipal Clerk Dennise J. Putnam presented the following agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove.

**Welcome/Call to Order and Invocation:****Public Comments: (3 minutes per person)**

Truelight-Walnut Grove Park request for funds

**Monthly Reports/Presentations:**

Friends of the Library	Mike Johnson
Leake Co. Development Association	Mike Johnson/Pamela Gill
Police Dept. Activity Report	Kevin Polk
Fire Dept. Activity Report	Jason Gilbert
Clerk's Office Report	Michelle Anderson

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approval of the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 minutes
2. Approval of April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Special Called Meeting minutes
3. Approval to transfer \$20k (thousand) from Gas Revenue to General Town
4. Approval to transfer 20K (thousand) from Special Building Fund MM to General Town

Training/Travel

Approval to attend 2012 MML Convention in Biloxi (includes dues and hotel fees)

**Old Business:**

5. Items tabled from March, 2012 Board meeting:
  - a). Library Auditorium Use Policy
  - b). Library Cleaning Proposal
6. Property Clean-up and Hearing, Terry Mann (Moody Building):
7. Town Hall Renovation-Kevin Polk:
8. Library Renovation final repairs-Jason Gilbert:
9. Walnut Grove Municipal Fire Dept. Resolution:

**New Business:**

10. Approval of April , 2012 Claims docket
11. Approval for Summer Help Program;  
Ashley Palmer- Library

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James Gould- Maintenance  
 Jennifer Pope-Clerk office

12. Opening of Bids on 1998 Ford F 150 Truck
13. Adjournment

**Welcome/Call to Order:**

Mayor, Brian Gomillion

**Invocation:**

Davis Gill

**Public Comments:**

Willie J. Barton/Davis Gill; update from previous meeting:

Motion made by Alderwoman Pamela Gill to transfer \$10,000.00 dollars from Town of Walnut Grove Recreation Fund, to Truelight – Walnut Grove Park. Money is to be utilized towards the correction of certain erosion problems that occurred in 2011 from a deluge of rainfall. And to procure materials and build an additional park pavilion. Request and remarks for funds from Supervisor, Davis Gill concluded that this should be the last request from the Town for funds as the Town had donated \$20,000.00 towards the initial building of the park. And in turn, he vowed his continued support as the Supervisor, towards future community projects. Paperwork with two quotes is to be submitted to the Town for approval and payment. Motion was seconded by Alderman Chip Jones and passed with a unanimous vote of 'AYE' by all Aldermen present.

Danny Cohill:

Presented to the Board an opportunity he has to sell his property located at the Southwest corner of the Triangle, to a developer which would in-turn, build a 'Condo'. Prior to his doing this, he wanted to know the wishes of the Mayor and Board of Alderman. He was advised by the Town Officials that the property would not be suitable for a dwelling location. And that the Town is currently establishing Building Zones, of which would not allow such a building at any location within the triangle area. But in addition, is an excellent opportunity for other small business purposes.

Property Clean-up and Hearing: Terry Mann, Moody Property:

Per Mr. Mann, his original intention was to put an upper level on the building. After looking into the possibility, the cost was too great for further consideration. The intention is to open a small restaurant. He does understand that the Town wants to see progress on the building. His problem with the building is the drain located at the back of the property. A commitment was made by Public Works director, Jason Gilbert to investigate and repair. Mr. Mann wants to see the codes for the Town. Attorney, Jeff Webb reported that the Town utilized the 2006 International Building Codes which comes in several volumes, he is more that welcome to come read those publications. Mayor Brian Gomillion reported that the building really became an issue with debris was left at the front of the building, for weeks, and then blew all over the Town during a storm. Also, that the Town was trying to be a good partner to a potential new business, but that the debris had to be address. No progress has been done towards the property since Christmas. Mr. Mann reported that the purchase of the property is not a clear fact, as yet. It is being worked on. Mayor Brian Gomillion request that Mr. Mann present a plan to the Board of Alderman on what his specific plans are for the building. Mr. Mann made a commitment to have the building put back "like it was" within thirty days.

Motion by Alderman Jerry Darby, to table item for 30 (thirty) days. Motion was seconded by Alderwoman Pamela Gill. Motion carried with a vote of 'AYE' by all present Aldermen.

Marbeth Carter, local citizen:

Expressed her dismay about the Board electing to donate money towards the improvement of a Park, outside city limits, and not spending the money here in the Town where it is needed. She was informed that the Board of Alderman is looking at a Trails Grant to build something inside the Town. The Mayor, also expressed that the need for a pavilion in the Town was being pursued.

**Monthly Reports:****Friends of the Library:**

Mike Johnson encouraged everyone to attend the opening of the Library on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

**Leake County Development Association:**

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Mike Johnson reported, East Central Community College will be hosting seminars on Small Business. Perhaps Mr. Cohill would be interested in attending.

**MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK**

21                      CASES PRESENTED TO JUDGE ON

APRIL 11, 2012  
\$2195.50    FINES COLLECTED FOR CURRENT PERIOD

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**BUILDING PERMITS**

BILLS GLASS	N/C
MARY PATTERSON	N/C
CINDY JONES	N/C

**UTILITIES**

**WATER CONNECTIONS:**

**GAS CONNECTIONS:**

**RECONNECT FEES:**

WATER	30.00
GAS	180.00

<b><u>Chief Kevin Polk</u></b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>8</b>
<small>(assisted with 4 arrest)</small>		
<b><u>LT. Jimmy Lewis</u></b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>Patrol J. Lee</u></b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Part-time Patrol</u></b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>13</b>

Miles Patrolled	Citations	Arrest
1503	0	
Miles Patrolled	Citations	Arrest
1615	6	3
Miles Patrolled	Citations	Arrest
1410	0	0
Miles Patrolled	Citations	Arrest
1541	9	1
Miles Patrolled	Citations	Arrest
<b>6069</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>

*Bank statements were not yet available from the Bank.*

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Alderman Chip Jones, duly seconded by Alderwoman Pamela Gill approving all items on the Consent Agenda. A unanimous vote of 'AYE' was given in agreement by all present Aldermen. Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Approval of the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 minutes
2. Approval of April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Special Called Meeting minutes
3. Approval to transfer \$20k (thousand) from Gas Revenue to General Town
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**Training/Travel**

Approval to attend 2012 MML Convention in Biloxi (includes dues and hotel fees)

**Old Business:**

**Town Hall Renovation:**

Chief Kevin Polk, reported three of the windows and two of the doors are already installed. The Mayor's office is ready for occupancy. Police has moved to the South end of the building. Things are moving along, with one section at a time. Causing little interruption to the work areas as possible. Electrical work is all being done by Kevin.

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**Library Renovation:**

Public Works Director, Jason Gilbert reported the Library still has a few items to be corrected by the Contractor. Linda Bounds (Librarian) is doing the final punch list with things she is finding as they move into the building.

**Library Auditorium Use Policy:** tabled from March 2012 meeting.

Motion made by Alderwoman Pamela Gill, to accept policy as written. Motion was seconded by Alderman Chip Jones. 'AYE' was the vote by all present Aldermen.

**Library Cleaning Proposal:**

Item closed with the understanding that the Library is to be cleaned with trustee and drug court labor. Also, Debra Petty (local citizen) made a commitment to assist.

**Walnut Grove Municipal Fire Department Resolution:**

**RESOLUTION**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove took up the matter of establishing a municipal fire department in Walnut Grove. After a discussion of the subject, a motion was made for the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Town has for a number of years provided fire protection services by and through the Walnut Grove Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., a non-profit Mississippi corporation;

WHEREAS, the Town has reviewed liability insurance coverage and worker's compensation coverage for the volunteer firemen and discovered that the Mississippi Municipal Workers' Compensation Group will not provide worker's compensation coverage for medical expenses to the members of the Walnut Grove Volunteer Fire Department under a contractual arrangement with the Town as per the letter of Charlean Beene, dated March 2, 2012, a copy of which follows this Resolution on the minutes;

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 21-25-3 provides that the governing authorities of municipalities shall have the power to provide for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, to organize, establish, operate, and maintain fire and hook and ladder companies, to provide for and maintain a fire department and system, and to regulate the same;

WHEREAS, Section 21-25-1 provides that the governing authorities of municipalities shall have the power to appoint a fire marshal, who may be the mayor, or any member of the governing authority of the municipality, or the city or town marshal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY, ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE:

1. That the Town of Walnut Grove shall establish and maintain a municipal fire department in accordance with Section 21-25-1 et seq. of the Miss. Code of 1972, as amended;

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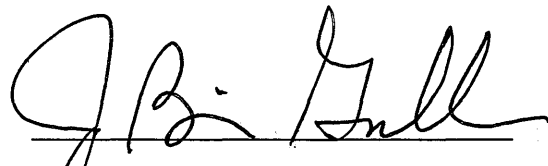
2. That Jason Gilbert shall be appointed as the Fire Marshall and his salary shall be supplemented \$ 1.00 per year for these additional duties; and

3. That the Fire Marshall shall submit any information and/or documents as may be required for insurance purposes to the Mississippi Municipal Service Company, Mississippi Municipal Workers' Compensation Group and Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan.

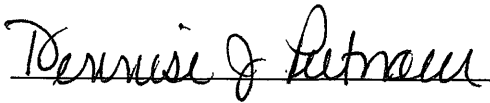
Following the reading of the foregoing Resolution, the motion for its adoption was seconded. The Mayor put the question to a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

Alderman Pamela Gill, voting "AYE",  
Alderman Chip Jones, voting "AYE", and  
Alderman Jerry Darby, voting "AYE",

On motion having received the affirmative vote of the Board, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted, this the Resolution adopted on this the 1 day of May, 2012.

  
MAYOR

Attest:



Clerk

**Adoption of Leake County Fire Department:**

Motion made by Alderwoman Pamela Gill, to continue with the contract with the Leake County Fire Department. Motion was duly agreed upon with a second from Alderman Chip Jones. 'AYE' was the vote of agreement by all present Aldermen.

**New Business:**

**Approval of April 2012 Claims docket:** *Plus utility bills and 1 bill from Barnes Trucking*  
Motion by Alderwoman Pamela Gill, duly seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby the claims docket was approved for payment. A vote of 'AYE' was given by all present Aldermen in agreement.

**Summer Work Program:**

On motion by Alderwoman Pamela Gill, duly seconded by Alderman Chip Jones, the following candidates were approved, for hire, as part time summer help.

Ashley Palmer                  Daniel Atkins                  Dante Gates                  James Gould

Motion carried with a vote of 'AYE' by all present Aldermen.

**Surplus Property- 1998 Ford F-150, Bid Opening:**

Having received two bids for the above mentioned property, bid opening went as follows:

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Monticello Truck Salvage for \$200.00.  
Larry Pope bid \$305.00.

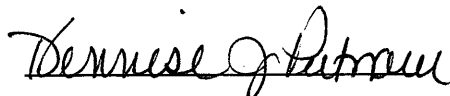
On motion by Alderman Chip Jones, the truck was given to the highest bidder, Larry Pope. A unammious vote of 'AYE' was given by all present Aldermen.

Municipal Clerk office also presented to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen Jennifer Pope as a part-time person to work in the Clerks office. This is a position approved in the 2012 budget, but has not been filled due to looking for the best candidate that could offer some experience and longevity.

With there being no further business to bring before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the motion to adjourn was given at 7:30 by Alderwoman Pamela Gill, seconded by Alderman Chip Jones.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Brian Gomillion



Dennise J. Putnam, Municipal Clerk

**TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
Wednesday, May 16, 2012**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Walnut Grove met in Special Session on the 16th day of May, 2012, at five thirty in the evening (5:30 PM) in the Walnut Grove Public Library Auditorium, 146 Main Street, this being the time and place of said meeting.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following were recorded in attendance:

***ELECTED OFFICIALS***

<b>Mayor</b>	Brian Gomillion
<b>Alderman</b>	Chip Jones
<b>Alderwoman</b>	Pamela R. Gill
<b>Alderman</b>	Jerry Darby
<b>Municipal Clerk</b>	Dennise J. Putnam

***STAFF***

<b>Public Works Director</b>	Jason Gilbert
<b>Chief of Police</b>	Kevin Polk

***GENERAL PUBLIC***

Mike Johnson  
Cindy Jones  
Linda Bounds  
Carolyn Henry

Notice having been posted in three places inside the municipal limits, and the Town Hall being one of those places, the following business in Special Session was conducted:

**AGENDA**

- 1) Right of way acquisition for Gas Line Project
- 2) Maintenance Department Summer Employee Program

**RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION FOR MS HWY 35 GAS LINE RELOCATION PROJECT:**

Mayor Brian Gomillion presented findings from Board Attorney Jeff Webb on Right-of-Way Acquisition for the Highway 35 Gas Line Relocation Project just south of the municipal limits. Mayor informed the Board the acquisition expenses are reimbursable from the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

On a motion by Alderman Chip Jones, duly seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby, and unanimously approved, Attorney Webb was authorized to proceed with purchase of right-of-way as follows:

Bill & Stephen McMahon	\$ 500	(.08 acres)
Louis Howell III	\$ 500	(.27 acres)
Elmer Miller Estate	\$ 1000	(.96 acres)
Chadwick Estate	up to \$ 3000*	(.76 acres)

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT SUMMER HELP PROGRAM:**

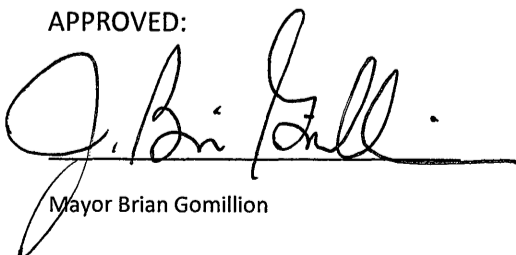
Public Works Director Jason Gilbert reported that one of the previous selected candidates had worked 5 hours and had to be terminated due to violation of personnel policy. On motion by Alderman Chip Jones, duly seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby, and unanimously approved, J.R. Gould was terminated from the summer work program.

On Motion made by Alderman Chip Jones, duly seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby, and unanimously approved, Montice Clark was approved to be employed with the summer work program in the public works department.

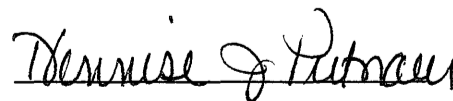
**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Alderman Chip Jones, duly seconded by Alderman Jerry Darby, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

APPROVED:

  
Mayor Brian Gomillion

ATTEST:

  
Municipal Clerk Dennise J. Putnam

