

The
Village
of *Walnut Creek*

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The Village of Walnut Creek Council met in Regular Session, April 27th, 2016 at 7:30 PM, 103 Village Drive.

PRESENT:

Mayor Danny Jackson

Councilman Pete Benton

Attorney Phil Baddour

Clerk/Asst. Administrator Sharon Geelen

Absent: Councilwoman Cyndi Dupuy

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Ricker

Councilman Mike Daly

Police Chief, Ken Barrett

Others in attendance: Larry & Connie Kammler, Darren & Cindy Howery, Bryan Belden, David , Donna Barrett, Will Barrett and other members of Chief Barrett's family.

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order and Councilman Daly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Danny Jackson provided the opening prayer.

Mayor Jackson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker asked to add "consult with the Attorney regarding real property acquisition" to the closed session. Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to approve the agenda with that change. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Geelen read a budget amendment to sure-up some of the lines in the budget. Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to approve the March Minutes, Finance Report and the budget amendment as presented by the Assistant Administrator. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

None

Clerk/Administrative Report:

Mrs. Geelen announced some dates to remember:

- The next budget workshop will be held on May 9th at 5pm, at the town hall.
- May 14th 2016 4-6pm, The 6th Annual Village Picnic

Mrs. Geelen briefed the council on outstanding property taxes.

Mrs. Geelen shared the county contract with the council for the county to collect ad valorem taxes for the Village of Walnut Creek beginning 2016.

Police Chief Report:

Chief Barrett said it has been an uneventful month. He stated they were almost half way through prom season and has not had any issues.

Chief Barrett announced the next crime watch meeting will be on May 10th. He invited everyone out to attend the meeting.

Chief Barrett stated his last shift before retirement will be Saturday night, April 29th. He expressed his gratitude to the Village, the council and his co-workers and stated he has thoroughly enjoyed his time at the Village of Walnut Creek.

Council Members Comments: Mayor Danny Jackson presented Retiring Chief Ken Barrett with a “Retired Chief” badge and a certificate in appreciation of his hard work and dedication to the Village of Walnut Creek.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker thanked Chief Barrett for his service.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker: Water & Sewer, Lake Committee, Audit

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker said he has had four requests for waivers for excessive water/sewer bills this quarter. He stated Maintenance will be conducting source water testing at both the front and the back entrances and will continue to monitor the water in our system. Mr. Ricker stated the flow meter for the main pump station has failed. The city of Goldsboro will be replacing it for us.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker stated the Lake Committee met in April. They noted that Fosters Lake & Pond Management is doing a good job with the lake so far this year. He also said Fosters has conducted the electro-shock fish count and we hope to have the report soon. One area of concern brought up by the Lake Committee is that people are parking in the parking spots designated for vehicles pulling a boat trailer instead of the shorter spaces. They also noted there has been an increase of people and pets swimming near the boat ramp. Although swimming is allowed away from the boat ramp (toward the far side of the parking lot), there has been more instances of people and pets near the boat ramp. The lake committee also suggested the Village find a way to “exercise” the gates for the over-flow structure.

Councilwoman Dupuy: Village Owned Property

No report. Not present.

Councilman Daly: Police, Planning Board, Insurance-

Councilman Daly said the Planning Board has met and is working on a proposed project for the playground. They also have considered putting the idea of putting parking spots down at the playground.

Councilman Daly stated we are waiting on the estimate for insurance premiums from the League of Municipalities and Crawford-Henderson. We hope to have them by the next budget meeting.

Councilman Benton- Pete Benton: Cable TV, Trash & Recycling

Councilman Benton has been in touch with Suddenlink and they have said that Walnut Creek is a top priority.

Councilman Benton said there have been no complaints with trash & recycling.

Old Business:

Mayor Jackson asked Councilman Benton for an update on the planning of the Village Picnic. Councilman Benton said he has been in contact with Mrs. Geelen and she and the staff have been planning the picnic. Mayor Jackson asked Mrs. Geelen to make sure our recent retirees, Chief Barrett and Mr. Cook, attend the picnic.

New Business:

Appointment of Finance Officer- Mayor Pro-Tem moved to table the appointment. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Ordinance- Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to approve the Administrator Ordinance (attached here to). The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Daly moved the council approve the contract with the county to have them collect the ad valorem taxes for the Village effective 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements & Correspondence:

Invitation to Chief Barrett's retirement party being held on May 15th from 3-5pm at the Walnut Creek Country Club.

Mayor Jackson read the thank you note from the Pipers Promise 5K held out here last fall.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to go into closed session to talk to Attorney Baddour about the acquisition of real property and a personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session:

The council came out of closed session.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to delete sub-paragraph 7 from Ordinance 21.05. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Daly moved to adopt the Resolution appointing Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker as Finance Officer. (attached here to) The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved the council authorize Mayor Jackson to speak with Mrs. Geelen regarding the Administrator position and discuss salary. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Daly moved to appoint Sergeant Belden the interim Police Chief until the council makes a decision regarding the Chief position effective May 1st, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

With no further business to bring before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Clerk/Asst Administrator, Sharon Geelen

Mayor Danny Jackson