



The Village of Walnut Creek Council met in Regular Session, August 24, at 7:30 PM, 103 Village Drive.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Danny Jackson  
Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Ricker  
Councilwoman Cyndi Dupuy  
Attorney Phil Baddour

Administrator Sharon Geelen  
Councilman Pete Benton  
Councilman Mike Daly  
Officer Robert Parchman

Also in attendance: Theresa Vine (WC Volunteer), Residents: Larry Kammler, Stoney Sloan and Steve Lamb

Mayor Danny Jackson called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Cyndi Dupuy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Danny Jackson provided the opening prayer.

Mayor Jackson amended the agenda to add closed session to discuss real estate purchase with Attorney Baddour.

The minutes of the June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the special meeting minutes of June 29<sup>th</sup>, and the July 27<sup>th</sup> minutes and financial report were presented. There was no discussion. Councilman Benton moved to approve the minutes and financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

No residents spoke.

**Administrator Report:**

Mrs. Geelen introduced Theresa Vine as our office volunteer. Mrs. Geelen deferred the asphalt repair estimate to Councilwoman Cyndi Dupuy. She also deferred the fire extinguishers and police radios report to Officer Robert Parchman and Sewer Inspection Report to Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Ricker. Mrs. Geelen stated she had been contacted by Gary Gray and was happy to report that Austin Gray (Walking Trail Map Project) and Sawyer Hudson (Wood Duck Boxes) have both been awarded their Eagle Scout Badge for the projects. Mrs. Geelen said the Pipers Promise 5K fundraiser is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>. Officer Parchman is handling the coordination of the event from the Village's side.

**Police Report:**

Officer Robert Parchman stated one of the Police vehicle laptops did not function at all and the other was barely functional. He looked into purchasing new laptops but found they are extremely expensive. After discussing it with Mrs. Geelen, they decided to purchase one iPad

for the vehicle. The I-pad can do almost everything the laptop can do and is more cost effective. They will look into getting another I-pad later in the year.

Office Parchman stated the new police radios are in, however, he is not going to move forward with having them installed at this time until we have a decision on the new police vehicle. The radios are specifically programmed to the officer so there is no point having them installed if we are looking at getting a new vehicle. Officer Parchman said he has also had all the fire extinguishers updated as well as all personnel protection equipment for the department. He has also contacted the county to inquire about the radar trailer for speeding. Officer Parchman stated there is a law enforcement appreciation event being held at Wayne Center from 4p - 7p on September 8<sup>th</sup> and he would like to invite the Mayor and Police Commissioner.

Mayor Danny Jackson announced that Officer Parchman has been hired as our Chief of Police. Due to a technicality with the paperwork from the state he has not been sworn in as chief as of this time. Mayor Jackson asked for a motion to appoint as chief as soon as the paperwork is received. Councilman Benton moved the Mayor to swear Robert Parchman in as Chief of Police for the Village of Walnut Creek as soon as his paperwork is received. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Councilmember Comments:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Ricker:

- 1) Transportation advisory committee received notification from DOT the project at the intersection of Highway 70 and Beston Road, to remove the median, has been approved. The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 million dollars.
- 2) Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker also stated the sidewalk project for the Village of Walnut Creek did not score well and has not been approved at this time. The project would cost \$347,962.00. Mr. Ricker will continue to work to get the project moved up on the priority list.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Water and Sewer- Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker said during our routine water testing, after switching to Wayne Water, a few homes came back with slightly elevated for lead and copper. The owners of those homes were notified at that time and subsequent test have since come back with levels that were not in excess of the state limits. These were older homes and the elevated levels were isolated to those homes. The Village has tested the source water at the front and back entrance where the water comes in from the county and the tests came back negative for any lead or copper in excess of state guidelines. State guidelines have required us to send out mandatory public education information which will be going out to all residents. We will also publish the information on the Village website. Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker reiterated the elevated levels are not in the source water and we will continue to monitor the water as the state mandates.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker updated the council on the Sewer Inspection findings. Darren Howery has been addressing the findings. He has started keeping the logs the state asked for him to keep.

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There have been signs with emergency contact numbers put on the gate of the compost area and the main pump station. We have also had the audible alarm with lights installed on the main pump station. Darren has updated the collection system maps and completed all items that were found in the inspection. We will be having a re-inspection in the next couple weeks.

Lake Committee- Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker said Fosters has done a great job on the lake this year, it is looking really good. He also said the maintenance department has started the painting the parking spots at the boat ramp to reflect "Boat Trailer Parking Only".

Audit Committee- Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker stated that Mrs. Geelen has been working with Michael Jordan, our CPA, on the annual audit. We should have a draft of the audit sometime in September or early October.

Village Owned Property:

Councilwoman Dupuy stated the roads are in need of some small repairs. She has received an estimate from Cox Edwards of \$6400.00. After some discussion Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker asked if we can get an estimate from Barnhill as well to keep things competitive. Mrs. Dupuy said she would have the estimates for the council to discuss at the next meeting.

Police: Councilman Mike Daly stated the old green Explorer that is used by the part-time officer is no longer running. At this point he feels we do not need to spend any more money trying to maintain the old Explorer. We have gotten a quote on a new police vehicle, which the new Chief would drive and the white Explorer would then become the part-time officer vehicle. Councilman Daly said we have been discussing this purchase for some time and there is money in the Capital Asset Replacement Plan (CARP) fund to pay for the vehicle. After some discussion Councilman Daly moved to purchase a new vehicle in the amount of \$27,393 and to pay for it out of CARP. Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Ricker wants it on record there is a truck a mile away and asked if the decision could wait a month or two as we measure sales tax revenue from the impacts of the Hwy 70 bypass being opened. Motion carried by majority. Three votes for yes-Daly, Benton and Dupuy, and one vote no-Ricker.

Cable TV: Councilman Pete Benton announced that WRAL will be coming back on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Benton has spoken to Suddenlink has gotten pricing on a new package which will include Internet and Phone. Currently we have our phones with AT&T and our internet if free with Suddenlink. Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker has agreed to work with Councilman Benton to see if the new plan is the best thing for the Village.

Trash and Recycling: Councilman Benton said there have been no issues.

**Old Business:**

Planning Board: Councilman Daly told the other members of the council that Councilwoman Dupuy, Administrator Geelen, Maintenance Supervisor Howery and he have all looked at the

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proposed park expansion. After reviewing the expansion plans it is their recommendation the council allow them to install the piece of equipment they purchased this year at the end of the park area, but that any further expansion needs to be behind the current swing area and would require taking down some trees. Park expansion as proposed by the Planning Board would take up too much space and would impede if a hurricane hits. The council concurred.

**New Business:**

Mayor Jackson discussed the Village paying for Theresa Vine to take a course in QuickBooks in order for her to get more experience and to help us out here in Walnut Creek.

**Announcements & Correspondence:**

None

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved the council go into a closed session to discuss a real estate acquisition with the attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

Back in session. Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to allow Mayor Jackson to sign the agreement with Blackfin for a Deed of Gift for an easement. (Attached here to) The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned.

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Administrator, Sharon Geelen

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Mayor Danny Jackson