



The Village of Walnut Creek Council met in Regular Session, October 26th, at 7:30 PM, 103 Village Drive.

**PRESENT:**

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

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

Also in attendance: Pat & Bob Biggers, Mike Vine, Pat Perkins, Alan Johnson, Emmy Mitchell, Russ Prys, Willis Underwood, Joe Cunningham, Joey & Deb Tillman, Ben Sauls, Lou Cook, Jim Clough, Jeanne Noble, Allyson Daly, Stoney Sloan, Dan Wise, Steve & Kay Bryan, Lois Marshall & Ralph Smiley, John Seegars, Mary Sue Fallin, Connie & Larry Kammler, Kenneth Fallin II, Teague Horton, and Bill Hunter.

Mayor Danny Jackson called the meeting to order and Councilman Pete Benton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Danny Jackson provided the opening prayer.

The minutes of September 28<sup>th</sup> and September financial report were presented. There was no discussion. Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to approve the minutes and financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

**Hurricane Matthew Presentation-Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker had a power point presentation that detailed the weather predictions and events before, during and after Hurricane Matthew. He thanked the staff and resident volunteers for their efforts during and after the storm, making sure the roads in Walnut Creek were passable as trees had fallen and block the roads. This was especially important because we had one resident that had an emergency and their efforts allowed rescue personnel to get to the resident and bring him to the hospital.

**Public Comment:**

Ralph Smiley made a comment on the appreciation for the staff for what they did. He went on to say during Hurricane Floyd his home had 32” of water in it, during Hurricane Matthew he had 12” of water. He asked the council to consider having the weir at the emergency spillway lowered/notched out as he feels this would have prevented the flooding in his home.

Robert Biggers inquired about how much of an impact of lowering the lake had on the flooding that took place during Hurricane Matthew.

Russ Prys stated he has lived on the lake for the past 32yrs and stated lowering the lake to “stump level” as some people have suggested would have only prolonged the rise of the lake to the level it reached. He stated the emergency spillway kept water out of most people’s homes.

Joe Cunningham stated his neighbor’s home looked like a lake and no effort was made that he knows of to put drains in to keep the water from flooding that area. He also stated the Village should not have closed the spillway during the storm.

Teague Horton asked if the council could give him details on the procedure for lowering the lake during a hurricane.

Bob Biggers spoke again and stated he did not get as much water in his home as he did during Hurricane Floyd but it had gotten in during the last hour or so of the storm.

**Councilmember Comments:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker stated we would need an engineer’s study to answer a lot of the questions regarding the impact on lowering the lake more before rain events, what impact lowering the lake more prior to Hurricane Matthew would have had and the feasibility of notching/lowering the weir at the emergency spillway.

Mayor Jackson explained the guidelines the Village has to follow as far as how much we can lower the lake in a certain period of time, the fact that the culverts in the emergency spillway were made larger than the original design, and the previous study that was done concerning lowering the weir. He also said the existing emergency spillway was designed for what the state had determined to be the “worse-case scenario”. Mayor Jackson said Hurricane Matthew exceeded the states definition of “worse-case scenario”. Mayor Jackson said moving forward we will look into new studies to see what, if anything can be done to reduce the chances of flooding. Mayor Jackson said that while he empathized with the residents in attendance that had flooded, he also had flooding at his home and he knows he is in the floodplain. He added that the only way he could ever be guaranteed he would never flood, would be to move.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker addressed Mr. Cunningham and corrected him that the outlet structure was not closed on the day of the hurricane, as Mr. Cunningham had stated during the public comment period. The outlet structure was left open for 11 days after the storm.

Councilman Benton expressed his gratitude for Darren and the rest of the staff for their efforts before, during and after the storm.

**Administrator Report:**

Ms. Geelen announced after months of volunteering, the Village of Walnut Creek has officially hired Theresa Vine to help in the office.

Ms. Geelen thanked Darren, the rest of the staff and the resident volunteers for their help before, during and after the hurricane.

Ms. Geelen stated she attended the Pre-FEMA briefing with Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker and is waiting to hear when FEMA will be scheduling their Kick-Off meeting.

Ms. Geelen said the Village will observe Halloween this year on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 pm. She stated the Police Department, some of the Village staff and volunteers will be out to ensure a safe night for all. As always, if you do not wish to participate, please keep your outside lights off during the hours for trick or treat.

Ms. Geelen stated there is not a meeting in the month of November and the council will need to set a date for the December meeting. The council agreed December 7<sup>th</sup> worked for everyone.

Ms. Geelen said the Village has Blessed Tree Service helping with the debris throughout the village. They are also helping keep the Breezewood site tidy.

### **Police Report:**

Chief Parchman stated he has spoken with the Sheriff's Department and they are willing to let us use the speed trailer. Once the Sheriff's Department has put the new stickers on it, they will notify us.

Chief Parchman said he has all his available officers scheduled to work Halloween night.

### **Committee Reports:**

Water and Sewer: Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker stated during the hurricane we had multiple water line breaks, lift station issues and had an excessive amount of storm water that was pumped to Goldsboro with the Village waste water. These are all ongoing issues we have to deal with.

Lake Committee: Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker said the lake committee has discussed putting up a sign for the transfer area on the dam where people can switch riders on boats and jet skis. After some discussion it was decided we would paint lines on the sidewalk on the dam designating the area. This will allow the Village Police Officers to enforce the rule.

Village Owned Property: Councilwoman Cyndi Dupuy thanked everyone for their help and dedication during the hurricane.

Councilwoman Dupuy stated we have contracted Barnhill Construction to handle the road repair project.

Police: Councilman Mike Daly said the new Police vehicle should be in next week. Once it has all the radios and decals on it we will put it into use and the white Explorer will become the part time officer's vehicle.

Planning Board: No report

Cable TV: Councilman Benton said he is working on a proposal for phones and internet with Suddenlink.

Trash and Recycling: No report

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to have the December council meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements & Correspondence:**

None

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