



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
January 10, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

**Regular Agenda
*The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding***

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Interim Fire Chief, John Pittman
Interim Police Chief, Chris Reed

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |

- December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- December 13, 2022 Executive Session Minutes
- December 19, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes
- December 22, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes
- December 29, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

VII. Presentations:

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

**LCPC
Executive Director**

- *Liberty County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).*

City of Walthourville

Mayor Larry D. Baker

- *Appointment & Oath of Office for John Pittman to Fire Chief.*
- *Appointment & Oath of Office for Christopher Reed to Police Chief.*

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Rezoning Petition 2022-0-84-W. Submitted by Dana Ingram (property owner) to rezone 1.67 acres from R-2A (Single-Family, Two-Family, and Mobile Home Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) for townhomes. Properties are located on Shaw Road in Walthourville and are further described as LCTM-Parcels: 050A-224 and 050A-225.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the zoning request.

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For a Barber and Beauty Service, CutzbyKim.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Ms. Kimberly Vaughn the business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway, Suite 4. The business will provide barber and beauty services. The property is zoned B-2 General Commercial District.

3. **Weiner, Shearhouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe Attorney Christopher Lane Provident Land Holdings.** Land Donation to the City of Walthourville including a pump station at The Estates at Wilder Pond.

City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

IX. Executive Session

None

X. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023
Walthourville Police Department @ 6:00 PM

I. Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.

II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was not present. Attorney Jimmy McDonald was present.

III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Liberty County Sheriff's Department Chaplain James McKnight.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes: The motion to approve the following Special Called Meeting Minutes for December 22nd and 29th, 2022 were as follows:

- December 22nd, 2022, the motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote 3-1: Motion Carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and Councilmembers Hendry and Kelly voted in favor. Councilwoman Lovette, opposed.

Councilman Anderson abstained because he stated he was not present.

- December 29th, 2022, the motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.

Councilwoman Lovette opposed.

VII. Presentations:

- Liberty County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Mr. Jeff Ricketson LCPC Executive Director presented information only for the proposed UDO for Liberty County. Mr. Ricketson stated the proposed UDO combines both zoning and subdivision regulations into one document that would be

applicable in the entire County. He added the City of Walthourville's ordinances are aligned with the county's. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked if there was a proposed date for implementation of the UDO. Mr. Ricketson stated no because this proposal has to be presented to all Liberty County Municipalities and that the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law required at least one public hearing be held prior to the adoption by City Council. He urged Mayor and Council to review the document. No action was taken as this was information only and Mr. Ricketson will return later for the adoption of the UDO.

- City of Walthourville Mayor Larry D. Baker
Mayor Baker informed the congregation that he was moving the Oath of Office for the Fire and Police Chief outside on the porch due to the size of the crowd.
 1. Appointment and Oath of Office for John Pittman to Fire Chief. Mayor Baker stated Interim Chief Pittman was being promoted to Fire Chief because he was qualified and he had been serving in the capacity. The oath of office was given and Chief Pittman stated he was happy for the opportunity to serve.
 2. Appointment and Oath of Office for Christopher Reed to Police Chief. Mayor Baker stated Interim Chief Reed was being promoted to Police Chief. He is qualified and has been serving the capacity. The Oath of Office was given and Chief Reed, Thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity given to him and that he would not let them down.

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Rezoning Petition 2022-0-84-W. Submitted by Dana Ingram (property owner) to rezone 1.67 acres from R-2A (Single-Family, Two-Family, and Mobile Home Residential District) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential District) for townhomes. Properties are located on Shaw Road in Walthourville and are further described as LCTM-Parcels: 050A-224 and 050A-225. Ms. Parks stated this property is located on Shaw Road. Ms. Ingram was present and stated townhome would be built on the property and sold. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For a Barber and Beauty Service, CutzbyKim. This is a Business License Request for Ms. Kimberly Vaughn. The business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway Suite 4. The business will provide barber and beauty services. Ms. Vaughn stated that she is a Licensed Master Cosmetologist and her specialty is cutting hair. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

3. Weiner, Shearhouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe Attorney Christopher Lane Provident Land Holdings. Land Donation to the City of Walthourville including a pump station at The Estates at Wilder Pond. Attorney Lane stated he was representing Provident Land Holdings who were the developers for The Estates at Wilder Pond. He stated his clients wanted to donate the land where the pump station is housed. Currently, the pump station is on private property and donating the land will give the city full access to it. Councilwoman Kelly, stated, "this seems to good to be true, no one donates or give away land." Attorney Lane stated this is customary when a developer completes a subdivision. Councilwoman Lovette, stated, "what is the benefit to us? M.E. Sack was the developer. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes inquired about the right of way to the property.

LCPC Executive Director, Mr. Jeff Ricketson was still present and he addressed the Mayor and Council and stated this was legal and normal. When the subdivision was being constructed the Mayor and Council requested that Provident Holdings put a pump station in the subdivision. Since the subdivision has been completed they are now deeding the property that the pumpstation sits on to the city. Attorney Luke R. Moses was absent. The council took no action until Attorney Moses could be present.

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers/ Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson Sr

Fire Chief John Pittman stated this was the 10th day of January and the department has answered 33 calls. For 2022 the department answered 802 calls. He also presented a proposal for the city to obtain a Ladder Truck. *The proposal will become a part of the official minutes.*

Fire Department Ladder Truck Proposal

Introduction:

The City of Walthourville is positioned to acquire and add a Pierce Ladder Truck to its fleet. Currently, the city has a 1994, 2007 and 2022 (new vehicle) in our fleet. The 1994 and 2007 are obsolete and beyond repairable. The city is being afforded an opportunity to acquire this truck with no expense to the city.

The city has been offered \$35,000 for both the 1994 and 2007 in exchange for a 1995 model, 55-foot ladder truck with 2022 upgrades, resulting in an even exchange. The city's current 1994 is totally inoperable and the city's 2007 needs a pump replacement that will cost in the range of

\$ 75,000-\$100,000 to repair. Brackett Fire will assume the responsibility of removing and transporting the engines at no cost from the city's premises.

Benefits:

The city will benefit from having a ladder truck by:

- Improving the city's ISO points, resulting in lower insurance premiums for our citizens.
- Essential for the city's commercial buildings over 10,000 square feet (ex: Plastic Factory).
- This truck will serve as back-up engine to the city's current fleet.

Ladder Truck:

- The Ladder Truck's body is a 1995, it has a 55-foot ladder and has been gutted consisting of 2022 upgrades with LED Lights.
- The truck has passed the pump test and ladder test with 100% accuracy.
- Was used as a reserve ladder truck for the last 10 years on a Military Installation.
- Service Records are recorded and up to date.

Financing:

- Zero Financing cost to the city. This acquisition will be an even exchange.

Summation:

- The Walthourville Fire Department encourages the Mayor and Council to approve this acquisition. Acquiring this vehicle will place the city in a position to be the premier leader in the fire industry for the next 10 years.
- The City is experiencing exponential growth and having this truck will allow us to serve and provide better protection for our citizens.

Chief Pittman stated this would not cost the city any money and this truck would be an asset for the city.

The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Reported that Bring One for the Chipper was held on January 7th and in February the Recycle and Shred Fair would be held at City Hall. On January 21st there will be a COVID and Flu Shot Clinic at the Walthourville Fire Department from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. For additional information please contact her,

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Reported Public Works is doing well. 3 additional employees are still needed.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Reported that Southern Civil Engineering is in the city, and they are still bringing their equipment for the water project.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Stated she is still trying to obtain funding for the park. Also, she gave information about a Housing Workshop that will be held on Saturday January 28th, 2023. The information is on the city's website.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Police Chief Christopher Reed gave the department report. He stated that January 3rd-5th, the Officers qualified with their weapons for 2023. Lt. Hooker will be attending training in Savannah and he will be attending the Georgia Chiefs Conference later this month. The insurance company totaled out the vehicle that was involved in an accident on December 9, 2022. The lights and equipment are being salvaged and will be able to be refurbished.

Office of the Mayor
No report.

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

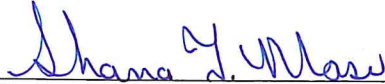
None

XI. Adjournment


Councilmembers

At 7:02 a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
January 24, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

**Regular Agenda
*The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding***

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Chris Reed

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes• December 13, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes• December 19, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes• January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes | |
| VII. | Presentations: | |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Weiner, Shearhouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe Attorney Christopher Lane Provident Land Holdings. Land Donation to the City of Walthourville including a pump station at the Estates at Wilder Pond. | |

2. **LCPC** **Ms. Lori Parks or Mr. Jeff Ricketson**
Business License Request. For Braids by Deidre.
Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Ms. Deidre Harper. The business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway, Suite 4. The business will provide natural hair care services of braids, hair locks and extensions. The property is zoned B-2 General Commercial District.

3. **LCPC** **Ms. Lori Parks or Mr. Jeff Ricketson**
Business License Request. El Cheapo Business owner and name change only.
Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Mr. Derany Patel, located at 5879 West Oglethorpe Highway, Walthourville, GA. 31333.

4. **City of Walthourville** **Ms. Shana T. Moss**
Qualifying Fee's for the November 7th, 2023 General Election. Liberty County's Board of Elections will conduct the city's General Election for all elected seats.
Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the 2023 Resolution Qualifying Fee's. Mayor \$432.00 and Council \$216.00

5. **City of Walthourville** **Ms. Shana T. Moss**
Qualifying Date for the City's General Election. The Georgia Secretary of State's Office has declared Qualifying Dates for August 21st-25th, 2023. To maintain alignment with the State of Georgia the City of Walthourville will conduct qualifying during these dates and the hours of qualifying will be 9:00 AM-4:30 PM and the clock in City Hall will be used to determine the time.
Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the 2023 Resolution Qualifying Dates.

City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

IX. Executive Session

None

X. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

- III. Invocation was given by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda as the order of business for the evening with a request to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously
- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes
- December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried. (Opposed: Councilwoman Lovette)
 - December 13, 2022 Executive Session Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Anderson. Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried. (Opposed: Councilwoman Lovette)
 - December 19, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Councilman Anderson and the second was added by Councilman Hendry. Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried. (Opposed: Councilwoman Lovette).

- January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
(Opposed: Councilwoman Lovette).

VII. Presentation(s): None

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. Weiner, Shearhouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe. Attorney Christopher Lane. Provident Land Holdings. Land Donation to the City of Walthourville including a pump station at the Estates at Wilder Pond. Mayor Baker called Executive Director Mr. Jeff Ricketson to elaborate on this item. Mr. Ricketson stated this is customary for a developer to give the land to the city. He stated the city was already maintaining the pump station and accepting the donated land would give the land that the pump station is on to the city.

Engineer Marcus Sack stated the pump station was a warranty for the city. The Mayor and Council stated the developer had to place a pump station on the property and the city owns the infrastructure. The motion to approve and accept the land donation was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. LCPC Mr. Jeff Ricketson
Presented a Business License Request for Braids by Deidre. The business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway, Suite 4. The business will provide natural hair care services such as braids, hair locs and extensions. The property is zoned B-2 General Commercial District. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. LCPC Mr. Jeff Ricketson
Business License Request. El Cheapo Business owner and name change only. Mr. Ricketson stated Mr. Derany Patel was requesting a name change only. The ownership changed and Mr. Patel wanted to apply for a Business License. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. City of Walthourville Ms. Shana T. Moss
Qualifying Fee's for the November 7th, 2023 General Election. The City of Walthourville's General Election will be managed by Liberty County Board of Elections. Ms. Moss stated," Pursant to O.C.G.A 21-2-132 (d)(4) each municipality shall designate the days of the qualifying period, which shall be no less than three days and no more than five days and the days must be consecutive."

The qualifying fees are 3% of the gross salary of the office. The qualifying fees were determined as:

Mayor—Monthly Salary \$1200 x12=\$14,400 x.03=\$432.00 Qualifying Fee
Councilmembers-Monthly Salary \$600 x12=\$7,200 x .03=\$216.00 Qualifying Fee
The motion to approve and accept the resolution for the qualifying fee's was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

5. City of Walthourville Ms. Shana T. Moss
Qualifying Dates for the City's General Election. Ms. Moss stated the city would be holding a General Election on November 7th, 2023 that will be administered by Liberty County Board of Elections. She stated the Georgia's Secretary of State's Office has declared Qualifying Dates for August 21st-25th, 2023. She requested to remain in alignment with the State of Georgia that the dates be approved. She further stated that the qualifying hours will be 9:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday through Friday and that the office will be closed for lunch from 1:00 PM-2:00 PM daily. Lastly, Ms. Moss reported that the clock in the foyer of City Hall will be used to determine qualifying beginning and ending times. The motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

City Reports

Councilmembers/Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Chief John Pittman stated the Fire Department has been busy answering calls. As of today (01-24-23) the department has answered 58 calls. The ladder truck is still in production and is being striped and LED lights are being installed. The pumper tanker will be arriving in May from Michigan. Chief Pittman stated he has been looking for grants for the city; however, the city is ineligible to apply for grants because there is not a funding plan in place for the department. He urged the Mayor and Council to revisit and adopt the Fire Fee that has been previously presented. To adopt this fee, will aid the city in obtaining grants. Chief Pittman stated the city will need to have a fee in place by 2025 when the new cycle of grants are presented. Councilwoman Kelly asked, "how are we going to approve a Fire Fee?"

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Reported the City had a COVID and Flu Vaccination Clinic on January 21, 2023 at the Fire Department. Vaccinations were available to both adults and children. On February 18, 2023 the City in conjunction with Keep Liberty Beautiful will hold the Recycle/Shred Event. The shred it truck will be located at City Hall. The hours will be from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Reported public works is filling in driveways with dirt. Bulk trash has been behind because the truck has been in the shop.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Reported that Southern Civil is in the city working on the ARPA Project of looping the lines. Currently, they are working in the vicinity of Carter, Julius and Strickland Roads. The water interruptions they are trying to keep to a minimum. However, due to the nature of the work being performed, it will be necessary for water interruptions. City Hall notifies the citizens via Facebook and the city's website.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Thanked the Mayor for allowing everyone to attend the GMA Cities Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. She stated she attended a Parks and Recreation class and there are grants to upgrade the park. The grants are also available to make the park ADA and handicap accessible.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Sergeant Fulwood gave the report in the absence of Chief Reed (who was attending the Georgia Police Chiefs Association Conference). Sgt. Fulwood introduced new Officer Patrick Williams. Officer Williams hails from Memphis, Tennessee. He is married with two children. Officer Williams stated he was happy to be onboard and he looked forward to meeting and working with everyone. Sgt. Fulwood gave the departmental statistics.

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

None

IX. Executive Session

Mayor and Council

At 6:29 PM a motion to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.

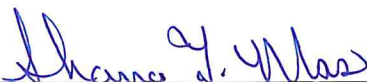
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

At 7:36 a motion to exit Executive Session and re-enter the regular meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

X. Adjournment: At 7:38 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
February 14, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

**Regular Agenda
*The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding***

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Chris Reed

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |

• **January 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

- VII. **January 24, 2023 Executive Session Minutes Presentations:**

Mrs. Pam Helton **Georgia Municipal Association, Atlanta Georgia
Director of Member Services**

- VIII. **Agenda Items:**

1. Keep Liberty Beautiful

**Dr. Karen Bell
Executive Director**

Arbor Day Proclamation. Proclaiming February 17th, 2023 as Arbor Day in the City of Walthourville.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Proclamation.

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For a Mobile Shaved Ice Trailer.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Mobile Shaved Ice Trailer for Mr. Phillip Bohannon. He would like to set up at Dawson's Feed and Seed Store. The property is zoned commercial, and he has the pertinent Health Department Permits.

3. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For D & D New & Used Enterprises.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Mr. Rodney Kelly. The business will be located at 5715 West Oglethorpe Highway, Walthourville Meat Market Property. The property is zoned B-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District). Mr. Kelly would like to set up in the parking lot and sell merchandise such as shoes, clothes and handbags.

4. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Zoning Permit Request. Zoning Permit for Julius Pray Road.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Zoning Permit for Julius Pray Road for a new double-wide from Hinesville Home Center. The owner of the property is Mr. Kevin Walthour and the applicant is Hinesville Home Center. The property is zoned AR-1 which allows double-wides.

5. LCPC & TRLong Engineering

Mr. Jeff Ricketson and Mr. Trent Long

Rezoning Request. Rezoning Petition 2022-009-W.

Recommendation: Request by Dryden Enterprises, Inc., (the applicant) to rezone 67.66 acres of land, more or less, from I-1(Industrial District) to PUD (Planned Unit Development) for a single-family residential subdivision located both in the City of Walthourville and Long County. 204 Lots will be located in the City of Walthourville and approximately 237 lots in Long County. The property is located off Hardman Road and Highway 84.

6. City of Walthourville

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Road Improvement. Griffin Road

Recommendation. Mrs. Carla Bell has approached the city about the deterioration of Griffin Road. She is asking the Mayor and Council to pave and or repair the road.

7. City of Walthourville

Mayor Larry D. Baker & Attorney Luke R. Moses

Contract Renewal or Termination. Cali Communications, LLC.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the contract for Cali Communication, operated by Ms. Natalie Lopez as the Public Information Officer for the Police Department. Ms. Lopez is a vendor and has a contract for \$1500 monthly.

City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

IX. Executive Session

None

X. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2023

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was called by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of Council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Councilman Anderson.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried.
- VI. Adoption of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from January 24th, 2023. The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Councilmembers voting favorably were: Hayes, Anderson, Hendry and Kelly.
Councilwoman Lovette opposed.
- VII. Adoption of City Council Executive Session Minutes from January 24th, 2023. The motion was made by Councilman Anderson and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried.
- VIII. Presentation: Pam Helton, Director of Member Services at Georgia Municipal Association, Atlanta Georgia. Certificate of Distinction Award was given to Mayor Baker and Councilman Hendry for completing 204 hours of training for Municipal Elected Officials. The award was given on behalf of GMA and Carl Vinson Institute. Immediately following, Mayor Baker asked for a photo opportunity with Pam Helton. Mayor Baker and Councilman Hendry took a photo with Pam Helton.

Councilwoman Lovette asked to be recognized as an inductee to the Hall of Fame. Pam Helton stated that Councilwoman Lovette has obtained the highest certificate that can be obtained by an elected official. Helton stated that was obtained in June of 2022.

Helton stated that she enjoyed the City Hall Staff and hoped they would be able to take advantage of some of the trainings that will be given in Hinesville and Pooler.

IX. Agenda Items:

1. Keep Liberty Beautiful

Dr. Karen Bell

Proclamation for Arbor Day. For Mayor and Council to approve the proclamation of February 17th, 2023 as Arbor Day in the City of Walthourville. February 17th, 2023 was proclaimed as Arbor Day in the City of Walthourville. Karen Bell was not present at the time of proclamation. The proclamation was read by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. The motion to approve the proclamation designating February 17, 2023 as Arbor Day in Walthourville was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried

Karen Bell arrived at 6:14. Bell apologized for her tardiness due to traffic. Bell stated that Arbor Day is the only national and international day for tree lovers and planters and encouraged planting of trees. States they will have trees available on Friday, February 17 at the natural food center on Hwy 196 and on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at the two recycling fairs being held in Midway and at Walthourville City Hall. Mayor Baker also presented the proclamation to Karen Bell. Mayor Baker then asked for a photo shoot with Karen Bell.

2. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Business License Request for a Mobile Shaved Ice Trailer for Phillip Bohannon. The business will be located at Dawson's Feed and Seed Store. The property is zoned B-1 Neighborhood Commercial District. Councilwoman Lovette asked if he would be located in the parking lot to which he replied yes. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Ms. Jackson, Business License clerk, informed Mr. Bohannon he would be able to pick up his license after 1pm on Wednesday.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

3. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Business License Request for D & D New & Used Enterprises for Rodney Kelly. The business will be located at Walthourville Meat Market. The property is zoned B-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District). Mr. Kelly will sell shoes, clothes, and handbags. Mr. Kelly stated that he gives back to the community including 100-200 pairs of shoes. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked if he had another business to which he responded no. Lovette asked if he has done business like this prior to this one to which he responded no ma'am. Anderson asked if the business would be in the parking lot of the meat market to which he responded yes. Anderson also asked if he had a problem with

parking to which he responded no, that he would be in the corner. Mayor Baker asked what would be his hours to which he responded Fridays and Saturdays and possibly a couple of Thursdays from noon - 5. Mayor Baker stated that regarding special days at the meat market it can get crazy. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked if once the parking lot is completed, he will be moving to which he responded he will stay in the corner. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

4. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Zoning permit request for Julius Pray Road.

For Mayor and Council to approve or disapprove a zoning permit for Julius Pray Road for a new double wide from Hinesville Home Center for Kevin Walthour and Hinesville Home Center. The property is zoned AR-1, which allows double wides. Property owner Kevin Walthour was not present. Councilwoman Lovette asked for a visual. Ricketson gave an explanation. Mayor Baker stated the visual is in the agenda packet. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

5. LCPC & TRLong Engineering

Mr. Jeff Ricketson and Mr. Trent Long

Rezoning Request. Rezoning Petition 2022-009-W.

Request by Dryden Enterprises, Inc., (the applicant) to rezone 67.66 acres of land, more or less, from I-1 (Industrial District) to PUD (Planned Unit Development) for a single-family residential subdivision located both in the City of Walthourville and Long County. 204 Lots will be in the City of Walthourville and approximately 237 lots in Long County. The request was originally heard at the April 26, 2022, Mayor and Council Meeting. The property is located off Hardman Road and Highway 84. Mayor Baker asked the council if there was a need to go back through and all stated no. Mr. Long stated they are here for the City of Walthourville to provide water for the entire subdivision.

Regarding water pressure/quality issues Turnipseed Engineering has designed an aerator which is under construction by Southern Civil along with looping of the water lines. Mr. Long believes there may be a closed line that needs to be fixed. Mr. Long does not have a clear timing on when that will be completed. Regarding the intersection for Highway 84, the plan is to have a road to go to the intersections. Councilwoman Lovette asked regarding the water tower in the area that would need to be raised and maintenance needed to be done, where are they in the process? Mr. Long stated the tower and its height give a static pressure of 45 PSI and with the improvements there should be good residual flow. Mr. Long further stated once the additional line is added with the bypass valve there should be no problems. Mayor Baker asked if Mr. Dryden would like to speak, to which he replied yes. Mr. Dryden states he was waiting for this to come back to council and that he would not like their customers to be unhappy. Dryden states this is why they are asking for rezoning but that it would be a while before they came back with a preliminary plat. Dryden states it has been about 5 years

since he has lived here, in Walthourville and he has been in touch with Trent (Long). Dryden states he knows the issues will be resolved. Dryden states he is here if they have any questions. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

6. City of Walthourville Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Road Improvement. Kelly states there has been citizen concern about Griffin Road. Kelly states there are a lot of potholes on Griffin Road. Mrs. Carla Bell and Michael Bell stated they live on Griffin Road and have been there about 42 years. Bell states they are honest citizens. Bell states there are a lot of potholes which are bad for cars. Bell brought rocks for display and that they were kicked up when a truck drove by and that she could have been hurt by one of them. Bell stated that Kelly walked Griffin Road with her. Bell states they were hurt by the new Griffin Road being fixed and is asking the road to be repaved. Bell states they do love living in Walthourville. Bell states the road was fixed with black tar the day of the council member and that she is the last of the road on Griffin Road. Michael Bell states also on Arnall Road and Carter Road they also need to be fixed and that there are dump trucks that are going by, and the roads are not holding up to all the weight. Mayor Baker states he has had this conversation with Bell previously. Baker states that on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 330pm the City Engineer will be coming and that they will be traveling the roads and getting some dollar payments together. Bell invited all council members to her home to take the 15 minute walk with her. Baker stated he will be traveling the roads with the City Engineer to include Griffin Road. Lovette asked where is the list of the roads for Walthourville? And, what is the priority for Griffin Road? Mayor Baker stated the list of roads is in Commissioner Gillard (office) and that a copy has also been given to Trent Long. Baker states there is another road, Slaten, behind the Meat Market that may need more attention. Michael Bell asked if there is a list for when and where the water will be worked on for Griffin Road. Baker then asked Patrick Golphin, water supervisor, if there was a list to which Golphin replied "not at this time we don't". Bell asked Mr. Golphin if he know when that will happen so the egg smelling issues will stop. Golphin states they are still working on it so they can just keep checking. Mayor Baker states there are some major issues on Dunlevie that need to be taken care of.

No Action Taken

7. City of Walthourville Mayor Larry D. Baker and City Attorney Luke Moses
Contract Renewal or Termination for Cali Communications, LLC. For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the contract for Cali Communication, operated by Ms. Natalie Lopez as the Public Information Officer for the Police Department. Ms. Lopez is a vendor and has a contract for \$1500 monthly. Moses states that in the last council meeting the contract with Cali Communications was discussed

forservices as PIO for the City. Moses states they have had emails and conversations in Executive Session which cannot be discussed, and they need a motion to approve or reject. Mayor Baker stated that before they go into the motion that Lopez was present and to come up. Mayor Baker asked if the council had any questions for Lopez. Lovette asked that we hear from Lopez before they decide. Moses stated this is in regard to \$1500/month plus reasonable expenses. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked Moses about going to executive session but stated that she is a contractor to which Moses stated they don't have to go into executive session. Hayes asked Lopez, "What do you actually do?" Lopez stated that she provides information to the meeting, develop relationships with other agencies and the community so that everyone is informed. Lopez stated she tries to create a community where everyone feels safe and that they can engage and participate.

Lopez stated she gives factual information in a timely manner on all platforms available to her whether it's social media, the local news, neighbors and more. She states she manages and monitors all the social media accounts for the department. Lopez stated she creates content and monitor interactions which may occur outside of the regular business day. Lopez stated she puts events together at no cost to the city with the help of her colleagues such as employee appreciation, back to school, breast cancer, coffee, cops and conversation, summer splash and autism awareness event. Ms. Lopez stated she will be launching neighborhood watch, citizens academy, women's defense class which will bring people together and create bonds. To encourage inclusion and not exclusion. Lopez states they help bridge gap between families, law enforcement and the community. It helps children to know that they are important. Feedback from the community is positive.

Hayes stated that Lopez works beyond the hours of 9 – 5 and that as a contract vendor the hours are not set and that whatever you work, you work. Hayes also stated that she has been looking at what is allowed from other vendors in comparison to Lopez. Hayes states Lopez stated she is heavily involved in the community but that the police department was already doing a wonderful job before she came not that it takes anything away from what she was doing. Hayes states that in the budget meeting the salary for Lopez was \$1500 a month but that Lopez requested \$4000 a month. Hayes asked what is it that your doing now that your are gonna do more for \$4000 a month? Lopez stated she would be present full time and that she also helps in the front office and works closely with the clerk and hand in hand with the chief in different capacities. Hayes stated that she hears what she says but not seeing the results. Hayes states they looked at the contract and had information from the department of labor. Hayes states she is not trying to tear Lopez down but that she is trying to be cognizant of what the city spends. Hayes states her issue is the same as back then which is that she could not honestly justify paying this much money for a PIO when things were needed for the fire department. Hayes states they asked a question last time about what Lopez does for the city and didn't get a good answer.

Hayes states things have come up about the contract. Hayes states she is looking out for the city's money and please don't take this as a personal attack. Lovette states that

in the contract that the police department shall pay for the services and that Cali Communications shall provide social media management, content creation and digital strategy as it relates to the police department and the City of Walthourville. Lovette states she can use what was presented this afternoon as an example of services provided to the City of Walthourville. Lovette states Kelly received an award in June, Mayor Baker and Hendry were presented an award in January and Lovette was inducted into the Hall of Fame and thanked Moses for writing a letter on her behalf, but all that information was not presented to the public through the media.

Lovette stated that anything that happened in the City of Walthourville should be included in this contract. Lopez stated that in regard to the city she does not receive the information to forward or present and that she does not get access to the phone of the city or page. Lopez states the only access she has is to the police department's page and that if the information is not given to her, she cannot share it. Lovette stated that in her contract it states that she is doing services for the City of Walthourville. Lovette states she agrees that if she is not given the information, but the contract states Lopez is providing these services. Lovette states the way she looks at it, there are other departments like public works, police department, parks and recreation and several other departments, were these other departments not included or was it not encompassed with the contract?

Lopez stated that she needs to be given access and information for her to be able to do what she can do with the information. Lopez states that she needs cooperation. Lovette stated that Lopez created the contract and signed off and that if not given the information that shouldn't she have inquired about the information. Lopez states she has met resistance when she reached out to the community or council members or other departments. Lopez stated sometimes she does receive the information and sometimes she don't. Lovette asked if Lopez met resistance who did Lopez contact on the council or the Mayor? Lopez states she gave information of resistance to Mayor Baker. Hayes states it was not communicated to her. Moses said to the extent of the contract to please blame him and not Lopez. Moses stated as to the contract being renewed with an increase that he does not know if Lopez would even stay and that the only question is to approve or reject the contract.

Moses stated a 2 week notice for termination must be given if they decide to deny. Moses stated that if she wanted to present another contract that would be for the council to approve or deny that as well. Moses stated the contract was drafted by a non-lawyer and signed off by Moses. Anderson stated that the contract states the police department and that City Hall is not included. Attorney Moses understanding at the time was that it was going to be primarily the police department. Former Police Chief Alfonza (Al) Hagan name was on it and he did not have the authority to execute a contract and Moses states he should have caught that. Councilwoman Lovette stated her concern is Lopez wrote the contract and that it was approved by Moses for the City Council. Lovette states her concern is that if it was for the police department and the city then Lopez has not honored the contract. Lovette states there are things that have not reached the media. Moses stated that every time a cat gets pulled out of a tree, it's not reported on social

media. Lovette stated she is not talking about cats and trees. Lovette stated that if she wanted to keep the contract she would have taken additional steps such as today's presentation.

Mayor Baker stated today's presentation was a phone call that came in and that they did not know (Mrs. Pam Helton) was in town and were going to give a presentation. Baker also stated that they weren't aware prior to give any information. Lovette stated Walthourville does not get the recognition it deserves. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated that under GDOL Rules - Chapter 300-10-1 - **Public Employers, Their Contractors and Subcontractors Required to Verify New Employee Work Eligibility Through a Federal Work Authorization Program**. Hayes asked Lopez if she had adhered to this rule to which Lopez stated no. Hayes asked if Lopez just drew up a contract to which Lopez responded yes. Hayes stated she asked for invoices before, and that Lopez receives \$1500 a month and that she asked Lopez what it is she do and did not feel they got a good answer and that Lopez read from the contract.

Hayes states her other question was that the \$4000 a month and that the council is supposed to vote on contracts and what is it that Lopez will do for \$4000 a month that she doesn't do for \$1500 a month. Lopez stated she would have more responsibilities and that \$1500 is for part time. Hayes stated that the contract does not say part time. Lopez stated that was the agreement when she spoke with Chief Hagan. Hayes stated that was a verbal and that if it has to come before council that agreement doesn't stand. Moses advised against drawing legal conclusions. Moses stated that they are there to either approve or terminate a contract. Kelly stated that Lopez helps the Magistrate clerk, Barbara and asked Lopez if she is authorized for GCIC system. Lopez stated she has taken whatever information they want her to do and has done it. Reed stated she has taken security awareness. Lovette stated that they need to be cognizant of what is being done and that Moses would not be held accountable and that if she knew that the contact was under scrutiny then she should have done more to show herself approved and that Lovette doesn't see that happening. Moses stated that the council authorized and appropriated funds for \$1500 a month in the budget that was passed. Moses also stated that he can be held accountable at any time for anything that they believe he has done wrong and can fire him. Stated that it doesn't even have to come to that, that if they come to him and tell him they want him gone, he'll leave. Moses states it is not Lopez's fault that Chief Hagan signed the contract and the only question is to approve or terminate. The motion to terminate the contract effective in 2 weeks was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried

Opposed was Councilman Anderson, Hendry

Councilman Anderson stated he is opposing until they get a legal contract that says the right owner and they totally accept it and the amount that they are going to pay her. Moses states if Anderson wants to have further discussion then that is appropriate. Anderson wants to understand what is being paid as it was \$1500 and going up to \$4000 and they need to know what is being paid. Lovette stated there are 2 invoices. One of the invoices is for \$1500 and an additional invoice for \$2000.

Moses states he has spoken to Lopez and states that will not be paid. Moses states Lopez may have thought the \$4000 a month contract was approved and that is why the additional invoice was submitted. Moses states all the cities could pay was the initial invoice. Moses states by the contract any reasonable expenses would be paid. To the extent that the first invoice did not include the reasonable expenses he advised the council to look at that. Moses stated the second invoice was not part of the \$1500 contract and should not be paid. Mayor Baker stated to Lopez that if the contract was not right, they would need to make it right to which Lopez stated yes sir. Baker also stated that Lopez stated she would stay on board for \$1500 for any department with information that she would gather but that she was being blocked in certain areas. Baker asked if she would stay on board for \$1500 a month as PIO for the city to which she replied yes. Moses states it can be a 1099 position. Moses states if it was a w2 position then it could be advertised, and the hirer could go through that process and it would be out of the council's hands. Baker states he wants to personally thank Lopez for her services and if they can get the contract right and back into the hands of the city Attorney and back before the council then he would be glad to have her aboard in the City of Walthourville.

X. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Deputy Chief Jamal Kinney gave the report. Kinney states Pittman is out sick. As of February 14, 2023 the fire department has ran 108 calls for the year. Since the last meeting 47 calls have been run with 34 being medical, 2 fire alarms, 7 miscellaneous, 1 brush fire and 2 wrecks. The new engine is going very well and the ladder truck should be here within 2 to 3 weeks. Morale is good in the department. They are running firefighter 1 class by the end of February.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

KLB has 100 trees to give away for Arbor Day which is the 17th and 18th at Whole foods on Hwy 196. Shred recycle fair is February 18th from 9 to 1pm and both flyers are on the City Hall web page. Hayes states there are vendors who wish to do things in Walthourville and as soon as it is solidified, she will pass the information on. Hayes stated she has information that will help those 65 and older with utility bills and that she will send this information to the Police department and City Hall. There will be a KLB clean up in March and October.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Hendry stated he spoke with Mr. Dave Martin and they had to haul dirt on Dorsey Rd because the road had washed out. Sanitation is up to par.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette L. Kelly

Southern Civil is still looping the lines. There have been some water outages due to someone hitting a line. There is an issue on Hillary Lane in the trailer park. Kelly wants

to know if the city has assessed the issue. Lovette states the issue was also brought to her attention. Mayor Baker stated that 2 trailers were moved out and 2 trailers were moved in. Mayor Baker stated the city lines are open and this is on private property. Mayor Baker stated he has spoken with Roberts previously. Moses stated he is reluctant for the city to go on private property. Patrick Golphin, water supervisor stated the city dug to the main. Work was done in the trailer park. Golphin stated the city found the main and it was flowing. Jones Court and Hillary had water including the back of Hillary. The only one without water is Mr. Roberts. When the city went over there were 2 guys from the trailer park who began digging. Mr. Roberts states wherever the plumber dug is where the problem is. Golphin states if we go on private property and dig and something goes wrong, the city would be liable. The woman did not want us on the property. Golphin states he talked to Mr. Ray Futch, the gentleman that did the plumbing. Mr. Roberts states he talked to Mayor Baker and told him the boys found a leak but said they weren't going to touch it. Baker states before Futch came Mr. Roberts had service. Moses states if it was the city, they would have it fixed.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Chief Reed states there have been 30 reports generated. There have been 20 traffic stops with 21 citations given, 5 warnings. The year to date is 27 with citations being 82. More citations were written in January than February. There have been 8 arrests and 1 juvenile arrest. Stated the goal is to keep everyone safe. Will be doing more training. Several officers will be going to the training. Carter has not returned to work. There were some houses that had to be cleaned up and one had chickens. Stated they were waiting on vehicles and had been waiting since October 1st and was waiting for them to be stripped and the equipment will be done by February 24th. The totaled vehicle was picked up by February 13th. Anderson asked about the household that had moved and stated they have begun cleaning up. Reed also stated that Ms. Lopez is helpful in regards of getting information to the public.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Lovette states they the AKA were attempting to plant trees, but the rain prevented it. Lovette has been in touch with Franklin from Roads and grounds. The AKA wants to come back. Lovette states she would like to give a presentation with information she learned at Councilman's Anderson church on Sunday. Lovette stated that Carrie Anderson Kent was the first female African American Mayor in the State of Georgia and United States. Donald Lovette is the first African American laboratory director. Ralph Quarterman was the first black businessman and president of the NAACP. Hayes was the first to get a vaccination clinic and food giveaway. Green was the longest serving councilwoman. Lovette states she is the first African American to be inducted into the GMA from liberty County. Anderson is the first African American engineer for the Fort Stewart Railroad System.

Office of the Mayor

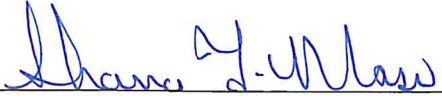
Mayor Larry D. Baker

Mayor Baker recognized County Commissioner Chairman Donald Lovette. Councilwoman Lovette asked if Chairman Donald Lovette was chairman for a group

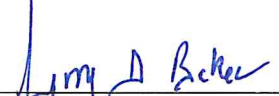
for bedroom communities. County Commissioner Chairman Donald Lovette gave a brief report. New FD headquarters were being built using SPLOST dollars. Chairman Lovette states it is almost time for a new SPLOST 7. A new EMS building is being built in Midway. Sam Harris gym is being renovated. County is doing a salary review for employees. There is a new director for the recreation department. A new Hyundai mega plant is coming. Liberty county is looking to bring more warehouses. Career Academy states only 40% graduate from college. States he saw the alert on fb that water was off and Walthourville should investigate a way to alert senior citizens. Anderson states there was a fiber optic line being put down and his water was cut off.

- XI. Adjournment: Mayor Baker states they need better communication with each other. Baker states all need to be mindful of the chain of command and that the council was rude by interrupting while Attorney Luke Moses was speaking. The motion to adjourn was given by Councilman Hendry. No second was given. The meeting ended at 7:50 PM by Mayor Baker.

Respectfully Submitted: Minutes compiled by Kara Jackson.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
February 28, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

Amended Agenda (02-27-2023)

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |

February 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

- VII. Presentations:
- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Walthourville Police Department | Chief Christopher Reed |
| • Promotion of Officer John Adams to the Rank of Corporal. Oath of Office. | |

VIII. Agenda Items:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. LCPC | Ms. Lori Parks |
| Business License Request. For an Online Auto Broker/Hinesville Auto Brokers, Inc.
Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the business license request for John L. Seward. The property is zoned R-2A (Single-Family, Two-Family and Mobile Home Residential District). | |

2. City of Walthourville
Capital Leasing for Municipal Government.

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

3. City of Walthourville

Ms. Shana T. Moss

Women's History Month Resolution. Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Resolution and proclaim March 1st-31st, as Women's History Month in the City of Walthourville.

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

None

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman James Hendry	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette (was present via telephonic)	

Member Absent: Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

The attendance of council constituted a quorum.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve and amend the agenda to include an item from DOT was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. DOT submitted an MOU for the utility lines in the city to be reallocated at the expense of Liberty County for the bypass.
Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.
- VI. Adoption of City Council minutes from the February 14, 2023 meeting. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.
Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.
- VII. Presentation
City of Walthourville
Promotion of Officer John Adams to the rank of Corporal. Chief Christopher Reed stated he was pleased to promote Officer Adams. He has worked for the city for almost two years and he is dedicated and he is an asset to the city. Corporal Adams was pinned by his wife, Mrs. Marsha Adams, his son, John Adams III., and his granddaughter, Little Miss Landree Adams. Corporal Adams stated, "that he enjoys working for the City of Walthourville."
- VIII. Agenda Items
 - 1. Department of Transportation
Attorney Luke R. Moses
Stated the city received correspondence from DOT regarding SR38 Bypass and reallocating the utility lines in the city to make provisions for the bypass. Liberty County will assume the cost of this project. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes made the motion to approve; contingent, that a clause be included that Liberty County is responsible

for all cost. City Clerk Moss stated she received an email from DOT Coordinator Mr. Doug Stephens that Liberty County will assume all cost. City Clerk Moss would like for this email to be included in the official minutes. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly.

Ms. Moss,

For the project Liberty County is responsible for all cost for utility relocations which are considered reimbursable. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Doug Stephens

Utilities Specialist 2



District 5 Utilities Office

204 North U.S. Highway 301

Jesup, GA, 31546

Vote:4-0: Motion Carried.

2. LCPC Ms. Lori Parks
Presented a Business License Request for an Online Auto Broker. Hinesville Auto Brokers, Inc. The business owner is Mr. John L. Seward. He is requesting to use a room in his home for the business. There will be no customers coming to the residence. The property is zoned R-2A. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

3. City of Walthourville Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Capital Leasing for Municipal Government. Mayor Pro Tem stated she has researched capital leases for municipal government. She is aware the city has several leases and would like for the Mayor and Council to review them. She also stated it would be advantageous for the Mayor and Council to conduct a Work Session prior to the next meeting to review this material. Councilwomen Lovette and Kelly stated they both agreed that a work session is needed. The motion to conduct a work session on March 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Police Department

was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

4. City of Walthourville Ms. Shana T. Moss
Women's History Month Resolution. Ms. Moss stated that between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Women's History Month celebrate the contribution women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American History in a variety of fields. The City of Walthourville was founded by an All-Female Mayor and Council and there has been a myriad of Women elected in Walthourville. Currently, the city has three Women Elected Officials, Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes, Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette and Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly. The motion to approve the resolution proclaiming March as Women's History was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Hendry. Vote:4-0: Motion Carried.

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers/Department Heads

Fire Department Chief John Pittman
Chief Pittman reported the call volume is steadily increasing. Within the past two weeks the department has answered 32 calls.

Economic Development Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Stated Keep Liberty Beautiful sponsored a tree give-a-way on Highway 196 at the Natural Food Store on February 17th. On February 18th, the Shred It/Recycle it Fair was conducted at City Hall. March will be the city wide cleanup, a date will be announced later.

Public Works Councilman James Hendry
No Report.

Water Department Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Reported that Southern Civil is still in the area, they are working on the water improvement project. They have completed the work on Carter and Julius Roads and they are in the vicinity of Dunlevie and Waters Estate.

Parks and Recreation Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette
State that she shas not heard from the AKA's about enhancements for Johnnie Frasier Park. She added that she has spoken to Mr. Travis Mobley at Fort Stewart. Mr. Mobley stated there are grants available for the military for water and sewer and that the city needs to look into this information. City Clerk Moss asked Councilwoman Lovette to give Mr. Mobley the email addresses for Mayor Baker and herself. Councilwoman Lovette stated she will give the contact information to Mr. Mobley.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported there had been 7 incidents and year to date the department has 57 reports. Corporal Adams has returned from school and several other officers are scheduled for training. Also, one of the city's officers has been selected for the U.S. Marshals and will be leaving soon. Chief Reed added that he will begin the process of hiring an additional officer. Interviews are slated for March 13, 2023.

Chief Reed posed the question to the Mayor and Council about the city's scheduled Autism Event on April 1st. Chief Reed, asked, 'does the City still want to have the event?' Councilwoman Lovette, asked, 'do we have the plans for the event?' Chief Reed stated he would ask former Public Information Officer, Natalie Lopez. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she was apprehensive about receiving any plans because Ms. Lopez was a contractor and we will not get the information.

Mayor Pro Tem stated if we cannot obtain the information from Ms. Lopez she suggest the Council get together and plan the event. They can contact new vendors; she suggested the city be proactive and begin planning.

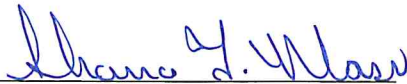
Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session None

XI. Adjournment: At 6:47 PM the motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
March 14, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

**Regular Agenda
*The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding***

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | Mrs. Kara Jackson |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | • February 28, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes | |
| VII. | Presentations: | None |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | |
| | 1. Tri-County Protective Agency, Inc. | Mrs. Chandra Cox
Executive Director |
| | Lending Library Installation. Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization with a mission to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, & expanding book access for all through a global network.
Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the Lending Library. | |

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

PUBLIC HEARING

Re-Zoning Petition: 2023-013-W, rezoning submitted by Adam Wilkinson, (owners agent) on behalf on Jeffrey Gaskin, owner to rezone 1.44 acres, more or less from AR-1 (Agricultural Residential District) to R-2 (Two-Family Dwelling District) for a duplex or single-family home.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove Re-Zoning Petition 2023-012-W.

3. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request: For Top Gun Inflatables, Inc.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Mr. Adam Wilkinson. The business will be located at 1163 Talmadge Road, Allenhurst, Georgia. The property owner is Ms. Donna Adams. The business will consist of rentals of inflatable slides and bounce houses. The Talmadge Road address will only be used for storage. The property is zoned AR-1 (Agricultural Residential District).

4. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request: For Braid Frenzy Beauty Salon.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Ms. Jasmia Kirby. The property will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway Suite, 9. This will be a full service beauty salon and the property is zoned B-2 (General Commercial District).

IX.	City Reports	Councilmembers / Department Heads
	Fire Department	Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
	Economic Development	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
	Public Works	Councilman James Hendry
	Water Department	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
	Parks and Recreation	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette
	Police Department	Mayor Larry D. Baker
	Office of the Mayor	Mayor Larry D. Baker
X.	Executive Session	None
XI.	Adjournment	Councilmembers
	When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:	

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation



City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
March 28, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | Ms. Kara Jackson |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | • March 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes | |
| VII. | Presentations: | None |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | |

1. City of Walthourville

Mrs. Chandra Cox

Executive Director

Lending Library Installation. Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization with a mission to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, & expanding book access for all through a global network.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the Lending Library.

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

PUBLIC HEARING

Re-Zoning Petition: 2023-013-W, rezoning submitted by Adam Wilkinson, (owners agent) on behalf on Jeffrey Gaskin, owner to rezone 1.44 acres, more or less from AR-1 (Agricultural Residential District) to R-2 (Two-Family Dwelling District) for a duplex or single-family home.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove Re-Zoning Petition 2023-012-W.

3. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request: For Top Gun Inflatables, Inc.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Mr. Adam Wilkinson. The business will be located at 1163 Talmadge Road, Allenhurst, Georgia. The property owner is Ms. Donna Adams. The business will consist of rentals of inflatable slides and bounce houses. The Talmadge Road address will only be used for storage. The property is zoned AR-1 (Agricultural Residential District).

4. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request: For Braid Frenzy Beauty Salon.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Ms. Jasmia Kirby. The property will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway Suite, 9. This will be a full-service beauty salon and the property is zoned B-2 (General Commercial District).

5. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Capital Leases for Municipal Government.

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

None

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
March 28th, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was called by Ms. Kara Jackson with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of Council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly with amendment for Chief Pittman to present information to council.
Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried.
- VI. Adoption of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from March 14th, 2023. The motion was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
- VII. Adoption of City Council Executive Session Minutes from March 14th, 2023. The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: CW Lovette
- VIII. Presentations: none
- IX. Agenda Items:
- 1. City of Walthourville**

Chief Christopher Reed
Chief of Police

City of Walthourville Police Department Standard Operating Procedures.
The departments SOP carries out the regularly recurring operations of the department.

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve the Standard Operating Procedures, Chief Reed distributed the draft at the March 14, 2023 meeting for the elected officials to review and to contact him if there were any questions.

Councilwoman Lovette made a motion and it was seconded by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

2. City of Walthourville

Chief Christopher Reed/ Mr. Alec Redwine

Police Department: Justice One, previously known as cloud cop-the reporting software that is used by the Police Department.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the reporting software Justice One.

Councilwoman Lovette asked if this was an upgrade. Chief stated it is the same system but down the road there will be no more maintenance for cloud cop. Mr Redwine stated the bugs have been fixed with the new system and it has been rebranded to be updated as the old system was 16 years old. Mr. Redwine stated it will be beneficial for the City of Walthourville.

Councilman Anderson made the motion to approve and the second was provided by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

X. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Chief Pittman gave call volume for the year which was 188 calls. 19 were medical, 1 fire, 2 motor vehicle accidents and 3 car fires. There have been 25 calls within the last 2 weeks. Chief Pittman stated he sent emails as requested on fire fees and does not have an exact amount. Property tax is done off the millage rate for the city. Councilwoman Kelly asked how will this affect the tax they currently pay with the county and if they will have county and property tax? Chief Pittman stated they will have to look into it. Mayor Baker stated he contacted the tax assessor's office, and they will need to see how it affects both. Attorney Moses stated it will be in addition to. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated that although one would pay county tax you can still pay any tax that is levied by the municipality. Councilwoman Lovette was unclear and Councilwoman Kelly stated that this is a property tax and fire fee being presented. Councilman Hendry stated it needs to be either or and that the city can't do both. Chief Pittman stated both is needed. Councilman Hendry asked if they have this in Ludowici? Chief Pittman stated yes as well as in Hinesville. Councilman Anderson asked if the county would be involved and Chief Pittman states it would go to the city. Mayor Baker asked if schools and churches are involved and that from his research no.

Mayor Baker stated we need to get with the tax assessor. Councilwoman Lovette suggested that we have a town hall meeting. Chief Pittman stated there is more that could be added. Mayor Baker states we need all information added as soon as possible so it can be presented at the Town Hall meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked who would be in contact with the tax assessor office and Mayor Baker stated he will. Mayor Pro Tem asked if they will have a work session and Mayor Baker states let him speak

with the tax assessor first before scheduling a work session. Councilwoman Lovette states we don't need to drag our feet and this is an urgent matter. Chief Pittman states that since we are on a freeze, he cannot send anyone to training that is not in house. Mayor Baker stated he will speak with Chief Pittman afterwards.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

KLB will have a open house on Wednesday April 5th at their office from 11am to 3pm. World Health Day is April 8th from 9:00 Am to 12:00 PM in Hinesville. April 17th is District 12 GMA Meeting at the Performing Arts Center. Earth Day is April 21st from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Bryan Commons Park. KLB cleanup is April 22nd from 9 AM to 11AM.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Councilman Hendry stated he spoke with Mr. Dave Martin and everything is going well. Sanitation, grass cutting and bulk trash is going well. Hendry stated that there was a complaint about putting leaves in the bag to which Mayor Baker responded the council has not gotten the letter updated so we will continue to pick up leaves in bags. Councilwoman Lovette asked when will mosquito spraying begin and Councilman Hendry stated in April.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette L. Kelly

Southern Civil is still in the city making progress and no complaints have been given to her. Mr. Richard Roberts was in attendance and stated he was back to see what council wanted to talk to him about. Roberts states he was without water for 49 days. Attorney Moses stated Mr. Roberts bill was zeroed out for that time period. Roberts stated he was satisfied with that. Moses states he does not know where Mr. Roberts lives. Roberts inquired why did it take so long to fix and Moses stated no money was offered on behalf of the city. Moses stated Ray Futch construction "fixed the line" and then Roberts had no water. Mayor Baker stated Roberts does not owe the city for the time period when he was without water and the city did not turn his water off but they did repair it. Councilwoman Kelly asked Mr. Roberts what is he looking for and Mr. Roberts stated his water heater burned up. Attorney Moses stated he may want to contact Ray Futch.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Lovette states she understands that we are under a moratorium but can she still get 3 quotes for fencing. Mayor Baker states yes please move forward with getting 3 bids.

Presentation to Fire Department

Mr. Tank

Mr. Tank states the 1st responders did an excellent job of helping him in time of his need. Mr. Tank donated 3 diabetic machines to COW and the Fire Department on behalf of his company. Mr. Tank then took a photo with the Fire Department and then Councilman Anderson and then Mayor Baker.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

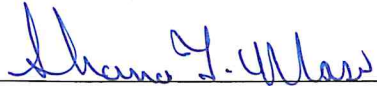
Chief Reed stated thank you for adopting the SOP. Reed states there have been 29 incidents including a shooting on Wilder and that victim is out of surgery and 5 accidents. There will be a scenario-based training on March 24th and an additional training on March 31st and he invited council to attend the 2 hour training in Long County. Reed stated there is a training coming up and spoke regarding replacing a totaled vehicle (from a December 2022 accident) and has spoken with Enterprise. Reed states he has looked at a 2023 Chevy Silverado. Mayor Baker asked if we have our hands on the vehicle and Reed stated no. Councilwoman Kelly asked how much is the lease and Reed stated he will have to find out. Chief Reed states the autism event is April 1st and sponsored by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office and patches sold for the event. Mayor Baker states training is currently on freeze. Reed states he is still looking into Robocalls.

Office of the Mayor
None


Mayor Larry D. Baker

- XI. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was provided by Councilwoman Kelly. Adjournment was at 6:47 PM.

Minutes Submitted by Kara Jackson



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
April 11, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | Ms. Kara Jackson |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | • March 28, 2023 | |
| VII. | Presentations: | None |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | |

1. LCPC **Ms. Lori Parks**
PUBLIC HEARING.
PUD Amendment 2038~~2023~~**-018-W.** A PUD Amendment submitted by SIMCOE Investment Group, LLC, on behalf of Veterans Realty, LLC, owner, for townhomes and a community area. The property is 7.42 acres more or less and is located on Shaw Road in Walthourville and is further described as LCTM Parcel 040D-091.

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request for: Astonish Beauty Exotic Extensions.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Santianna Wright-Aaron. The business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway and is zoned B-2. The business will consist of a Hair Extension Boutique and Retail Store and will offer hair services, braids, sew-ins, wigs, installs and makeup services.

3. City of Walthourville.

Attorney Luke R. Moses

Liberty County Board of Elections: Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct the General Election on November 7, 2023.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement from Liberty County. Liberty County Board of Elections will conduct the election for the city.

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Hayes

Earth Day Proclamation and Great American Cleanup.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Proclamation designating April 21st, 2023 as Earth Day in the City. Also, to acknowledge April 22nd as the Great American Cleanup in Walthourville.

5. City of Walthourville

Chief John Pittman

Fire Department Equipment. Amkus Combination Tool.

Recommendation: To allow the Fire Department to use SPLOST Funds to purchase an Amkus Combination Tool in the amount of \$10,905.00 from FireLine, In. SPLOST Funds are earmarked for Public Safety Equipment

6. City of Walthourville

Chief John Pittman

Fire Department Equipment for 2023 Pumper Tanker Truck.

Recommendation: To allow the Fire Department to use SPLOST Funds to outfit the city's 2023 Pumper Tanker Truck with equipment in the amount of \$66,114.50 from FireLine, Inc. SPLOST Funds are earmarked for Public Safety Equipment.

7. City of Walthourville

Chief John Pittman

Enterprise Lease Vehicles. The Fire Department's Emergency Vehicles are old and obsolete. The Bronco that was being used is inoperable and parts cannot be obtained. The Crown Victoria is also aged and parts are unobtainable.

Recommendation: The Department is requesting that SPLOST Funds be allowed for them to lease two Ford Explorers for \$1,000.00 monthly from Enterprise. SPLOST Funds are earmarked for Public Safety Equipment.

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department
Economic Development
Public Works
Water Department
Parks and Recreation
Police Department
Office of the Mayor

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette
Mayor Larry D. Baker
Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

None

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

for clarification if this was already approved to which Ms. Lori Parks stated yes and that this is a PUD Amendment to the original PUD. Ms. Lori Parks pointed out the wetlands area as well as it is in flood zone A in the rear and that the homes in the area would have to be elevated. Parks read the narrative from TRL Engineering. Parks then went over the site layout plans, also given to council, which has a change to townhomes with 46 units and water and sewer provided by COW. No questions regarding site plans. Zoning analysis given by Parks stated the property has reasonable economic value and is currently zoned and the property conforms with the Jaela study. The proposed use does not conform with the liberty county comp plan. The comp plan identifies this parcel as commercial because that is what it was zoned to at the time. There will be no adverse affects of the usability of nearby properties. The zoning proposal will not create an undue burden on transportation. This will not allow a short term gain at the expense of the long term goal. Other specs were given. LCPC recommended approval. Mayor Baker stated council needed to enter into a public hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes gave a motion to enter into public hearing and it was seconded by Councilwoman Kelly.

Mayor Baker asked if anyone had questions for Ms. Parks or if any citizens had concerns.

Citizen Gwendolyn Dykes asked with all the new development will the City be available to hire enough law enforcement to maintain the city as it is because with all the new construction she wants to make sure all the citizens that come here can be adequately protected. She also stated she thought maybe with more law enforcement more council members would be needed to govern the city. Ms. Dykes stated that she is all for all of the new development but we need to look at the impact it would have on the roads and crews people picking up trash, to put in the sewer system, the ones that maintain everything. She asked would the City have the revenue to pay for those added services. Mayor Baker stated we would have the revenue and that Chief Reed was present and that COW is in good shape with the police department. Ms. Dykes asked if this will affect taxes and COW currently does not have city taxes. Mayor Baker stated this development will give the COW revenue a boost. Gwen asked if this will cause us to see a property tax to which Mayor Baker stated he does and that one day COW will have to get taxes. Dykes asked if the taxes will be because of the new development or the cost of things increasing. She also stated that there have not been taxes here previously. Mayor Baker stated with things increasing and one day we will have to get taxes. Dykes asked if it will be in her lifetime to which Mayor Baker stated yes. Dykes asked how many years before that comes to fruition and Mayor Baker stated he does not have an answer for that and that taxes will be discussed later on in the meeting. Councilwoman Lovette stated she did not get the individual name speaking to which the response was Gwendolyn Dykes. Trent Long and Simcoe was also present. Councilman asked what will happen to the wetland area to which they responded they will not get into it. Mayor Baker asked if he was seeing a retention pond to which they responded yes, outside the wetland. Mayor Baker asked if it would be fenced in to which they responded yes. Mayor Baker stated he talked with one resident on Sagittarius Lane that requested a privacy fence between the properties. Trent Long states there was no privacy fence showing on the property line. Mayor Baker stated

where the mobile home is, the owner is requesting a privacy fence. Councilman Anderson asked what the distance between the property and the mobile home park to which SIMCOE and Trent Long responded about 150 feet. The owner of Veteran's realty was also present and stated he left a tree line and 20 feet buffer and states he doesn't think the tree line buffer and privacy fence is needed. Councilwoman Lovette asked what is the concern for the citizen to receive the privacy fence. The response from SIMCOE and Trent Long was that it can and will be done. They will make it a special condition of the PUD agreement. Councilwoman Lovette asked about gutters, sidewalks and more and Trent Long stated all that will be in place. Councilwoman Kelly asked about lighting and SIMCOE stated that there will be on the ground lighting and street lights. Councilwoman Anderson asked about the roadway to which SIMCOE responded there will be a full 2 lane street.

Councilwoman Kelly made a motion to come out of the public hearing and it was seconded by Councilman Anderson. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Lovette asked how many entrances to which Mayor Baker responded two, both on Shaw Road. SIMCOE stated there is no frontage on Airport Rd, only on Shaw Rd.

Councilman Hendry made a motion to approve the amendment and it was seconded by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request for Astonish Beauty Exotic Extensions.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Santianna Wright-Aaron. The business will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway and is zoned B-2. The business will consist of a Hair Extension Boutique and Retail Store and will offer hair services, braids, sew-ins, wigs, installs and makeup services. No questions were asked.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes made a motion to approve and was seconded by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

3. LCPC

Attorney Luke R. Moses

Liberty County Board of Elections: Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct the General Election on November 7, 2023.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement from Liberty County. Liberty County Board of Elections will conduct the election for the City. Mayor Baker stated he had a question but had spoke with Mrs. Walthour who gave him an answer regarding the dollar amount to the Board of Elections to do the elections to which Moses asked what was the amount and he was told not that much. Councilwoman Lovette asked what is it based upon and Moses asked to table until COW has a dollar amount.

Councilman Anderson made a motion to table and was seconded by Councilwoman Kelly. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked is all municipalities paying the same amount to

which Mayor Baker stated no. Motion died. Councilwoman Kelly made a motion to table and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Earth Day Proclamation and Great American Cleanup

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Proclamation designating April 21, 2023 as Earth Day in the City. Also, to acknowledge April 22, 2023 as the Great American Cleanup in Walthourville. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes read the proclamation.

Councilwoman Lovette made a motion to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Councilman Anderson. Councilwoman Kelly did not vote. Councilwoman Lovette stated we should promote the recycle fair.

Vote: 4-1 Motion Carried

5. City of Walthourville

Chief John Pittman

Fire Department Equipment. Amkus Combination Tool.

Recommendation: To allow the Fire Department to use SPLOST Funds to purchase an Amkus Combination Tool in the amount of \$10,905.00 from FireLine, Inc. SPLOST Funds are earmarked for Public Safety Equipment. Mayor Baker asked if the tool is the jaws of life. Pittman stated yes that usually it is two tools, one to spread and one to cut and this is a combination tool. Councilman Anderson asked how important is this tool for the Fire Department. Pittman stated that if there are two vehicles are entrapped they can concentrate on one vehicle while the other tool is doing the job on the other.

Councilwoman Lovette made a motion to approve and was seconded by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

6. City of Walthourville

Chief John Pittman

Fire Department Equipment for 2023 Pumper Tanker Truck.

Recommendation: To allow the Fire Department to use SPLOST Funds to outfit the city's 2023 Pumper Tanker Truck with equipment in the amount of \$66,114.50 from Fireline, Inc. SPLOST Funds are earmarked for Public Safety Equipment.

Councilwoman Hendry made a motion to approve and was seconded by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

7. City of Walthourville

Chief John Pittman

Enterprise Lease Vehicles. The Fire Department's Emergency Vehicles are old and obsolete. The Bronco that was being used is inoperable and parts cannot be obtained. The Crown Victoria is also aged and parts are unobtainable.

Recommendation: The Department is requesting SPLOST Funds be allowed for them to lease two Ford Explorers for \$1,000.00 monthly from Enterprise. SPLOST Funds are earmarked for Public Safety Equipment.

Councilwoman Kelly asked how long do they plan to lease to which Pittman responded 60 months.

Councilwoman Lovette made a motion to approve and was seconded by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

Councilwoman Kelly stated they approved \$137,19.50

IX. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Chief Pittman gave call volume for the year. 36 calls within the last 2 weeks, 3 fire alarms, 5 vehicle accidents, 24 medical calls and 4 structure fires. Three of the structure fires were mutual aids and 1 was inside the city limits. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked Pittman to make a list of the equipment needed as he had spoken with her and Councilman Anderson.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

KLB Teresa Pooler was present. There will be an event on April 21, 2023 which is Earth Day. Pooler stated they will be celebrating their 17th annual Earth day at Bryant Commons Park and it is free from 3pm to 6pm. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated they are hoping for a good turnout this year. Saturday, April 22, 2023 is the annual cleanup for Walthourville. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes states she visited the tax office and they discussed city, fire and property tax. Hayes states the tax assessor states that if it is in the City's Charter then Walthourville can collect their own taxes. The tax assessor will bring information at the April 25, 2023 council meeting on the three taxes. Hayes was told the City would not be double taxed. Hayes states she also went to a seminar on homestead exemption and there are more exemptions as we age. A seminar is scheduled for May 17, 2023 at 530 at Savannah Tech College Liberty County Campus in room 144. Councilwoman Kelly asked about the double tax and Hayes states the tax assessor will come on April 25, 2023 to discuss taxes. Attorney Moses stated the question is what fees or taxes will city council want to do first and the City will get the money at the end of the day. Hayes stated the tax assessor will be present on April 25, 2023 and to please have any questions and they will be happy to answer them. Mayor Baker stated he was trying to get in touch with her but the assessor must have been meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Hayes at the time.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Hendry stated he spoke with Mr. Dave Martin and everything is going well. Sanitation, grass cutting and bulk trash is going well. The knuckleboom truck was down but is back up and they didn't get back up. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked about getting the ditches on oak ridge estate cleaned out. Hayes states she observed Mr. Martin and saw him digging a trench. Hayes states she asked Martin if they could do that in Oak Ridge as the mosquitoes are bad and the water is standing. Hayes stated Martin told her about another subdivision where trenches have been dug. Hayes informed Hendry she will put in a work order. Mayor Baker stated more mosquito spray needed to be ordered and he would get with Patrick concerning placing an order and drums are expensive. Mayor Baker stated he would get back with council on mosquito control. Councilwoman

Lovette stated the chemicals for the mosquitos should have already been ordered and last year they were on back order and was it ever received. Mayor Baker stated yes and it was around \$10,500 and was unaware COW had run out and once received they will begin spraying.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette L. Kelly

Councilwoman Kelly stated that Southern Civil is still in the city and there have been a couple of water outages at no fault of the city that were fixed in a timely fashion. Mayor Baker stated the aerator is in position on Carter Rd and there is a leak at the corner of Selph and Arnall as we did not have the man power needed and it will be fixed on April 12, 2023. Baker stated it is bad and EOM will be in the city to help with the repair. Councilwoman Lovette asked if it was posted on the website to which Kelly responded yes as well as on fb. Lovette asked where are they on the robocall to which Mayor Baker asked Chief Reed the status. Reed stated the school system was out so he does not have a status.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Councilwoman Lovette states she spoke with 3 companies on quotes for fencing but because she had to go out of town it had to be postponed. Lovette asked if the funds earmarked for parks and recreation out of SPLOST funds are they still available. Mayor Baker states yes and that he hasn't touched SPLOST funds and those funds are still available. Lovette asked will parks and recreation still be able to get funds from those splost funds. Councilwoman Kelly asked for the dollar amount in SPLOST. Mayor Baker stated he has a total but it is not in front of him. Lovette stated there are rodents and some of the dirt is being washed out and the building has not been painted since built. Baker stated there are funds in SPLOST 7 but he doesn't have the numbers in front of him.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Chief Reed stated have been 23 generated reports, 14 incidents with 5 accidents and 0 domestic violence calls. There were 3 miscellaneous reports, 44 traffic citations issued with 40 traffic stops and 9 warnings. Reed spoke on the vehicle that needs to be replaced. The lease to replace the totaled out vehicle for a Chevrolet Silverado is \$45,624. Reed asked that the \$30,000 could be used toward that. Councilwoman Kelly asked if COW was at a standstill on spending money. Mayor Baker stated that was an accident so it would be a replacement vehicle. Kelly stated they would still have spend the add'l \$15,000. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked what the ratio of officer to vehicles is. Reed stated there are 10 officers and every officer has a vehicle. Reed stated if a vehicle breaks down they would have to hop in another vehicle so the vehicle would replace the one we had and we would have 11 vehicles. Mayor Baker stated we had a problem with a vehicle and Reed stated we have a problem with 3 vehicles due to fuel. Hayes stated they take them home so if they are not on duty the vehicle is at their house. Reed stated if they not on duty the vehicle can be used. Reed stated when school is back open he will get the information on robocalls. Mayor Baker stated he knows they said something about a spending freeze but that is a public safety equipment and that's

SPLOST. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked how far in the hole would that put COW if they are already in the hole. Mayor Baker stated COW was back in the hole at \$137,000 for the fire department. Baker stated public safety equipment that is a vehicle and that's out of SPLOST too. Kelly stated we don't even know what we have in SPLOST and we still must deal with parks and rec. Mayor Baker stated we didn't know what we had in SPLOST when we just spent that \$137,000 and you (Kelly) added it up. Attorney Moses stated we have an idea of what we have in SPLOST and we just have to ask Matthew Caines. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated this is not a dire need and can this wait until the next council meeting. Reed and Moses agreed. Reed stated we had some officers attend Crisis Intervention Training and Officer Carter is CIT training. Gwendolyn Dykes asked will COW be able to take care of all the new people that come in to which Reed responded yes. Dykes stated she thinks we need to hire more officers and Mayor Baker and Chief Reed stated we are doing good currently sustaining. Dykes asked if the response time is under 30 minutes to which Reed responded yes. Mayor Baker stated we also have a relationship with the Liberty County Sheriff Department. Reed stated the department grew under Hagan to have a better response time to which Dykes stated she doesn't want the officers overworked.

Office of the Mayor

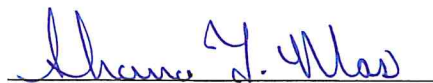
Mayor Larry D. Baker


Mayor Baker gave a reminder about the 1st Annual Farmer's Market coming up on April 29th from 8 – noon at City Hall. Contact persons are Ms. Jackson and Mr. Golphin. Councilwoman Lovette asked when will they know the amount in SPLOST and can the numbers be sent to all council. Lovette also asked Chief Pittman to give her a call. Anderson asked could we have the numbers by next council meeting to which Lovette stated yes.

- X. Adjournment: Motion was given by Councilman Hendry and seconded by Councilwoman Kelly. Adjournment was at 7:10pm

Minutes Submitted by Kara Jackson

City Clerk, Shana T. Moss was on Medial Leave.


Shana T. Moss, City Clerk


Larry D. Baker, Mayor



City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
April 25, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- I. Meeting Called to Order: **Mayor Larry D. Baker**
- II. Roll Call: **Ms. Kara Jackson**
- III. Invocation **Appointee**
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance: **In Unison**
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: **Councilmembers**
- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes: **Councilmembers**
 - April 11, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes
- VII. Presentations:
Liberty County Tax Assessors **Mrs. Glenda Roberts**
Mrs. Roberts will present information only to the Mayor and Council on Tax Assessment, including assessment and fee collection.
- VIII. Agenda Items:
1. LCPC **Ms. Lori Parks**
Business License Request for American Promotional Events, Inc. DBA TNT Fireworks, Inc.
Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for David Midgarden. The property owner is Julie Dawson. The business will

be located on the premises of Dawsons General Store located at 5782 West Oglethorpe Highway. The business will sell fireworks out of an 8 x24 Wooden Stand. The Walthourville Fire Department will inspect the structure and an inspection must be passed before the business can be opened.

2. City of Walthourville

Attorney Luke R. Moses

Liberty County Board of Elections: Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct the General Election on November 7, 2023.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement from Liberty County. Liberty County Board of Elections will conduct the election for the city. *This item was previously on the April 11, 2023 Agenda and was tabled by the Mayor and Council to obtain additional cost information from Liberty County.*

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor Larry D. Baker

2023-2024 Georgia Interlock Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) Renewal.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the 2023-2024 Liability and Property Insurance Renewal for the City of Walthourville. GIRMA is administered through Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). The city's 2023-2024 Insurance Renewal is \$110, 392.00. The insurance period runs from May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024.

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

None

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
April 25th, 2023

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was called by Kara Jackson with the following members present:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Mayor Larry D. Baker | Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes |
| Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr. | Councilman James Hendry |
| Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly | Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette via phone |
- The attendance of Council constituted a quorum.
- City Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance via phone.
- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Pastor Alan Stewart of Victory Baptist Church.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.
Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried.
- VI. Adoption of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from April 11th, 2023. The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Councilwoman L. Lovette opposed
- VII. Presentations: **Liberty County Tax Assessors** **Mrs. Glenda Roberts**
Mrs. Roberts introduced her staff who traveled with her for the presentation: Deputy Chief Georgia Holliday, Real Property Supervisor Quixote McCullough and Administrative Coordinator Andrea Brown-Lewis. Mrs. Roberts showed a video that gave an overview of the tax assessor's office and their duties. Mrs. Roberts also gave council members a handout titled 2022 compliance guide for advertising digest history and public hearings on increase in property taxes. Mrs. Roberts continued with her presentation after the video. Roberts stated she has a staff of 17 which includes clerical and support staff as well as appraisers. Roberts stated that Liberty county's market has been extremely volatile over the last few years and they are currently in the process of setting values for 2023.

Roberts stated that Liberty county is like a market of their own and property values are definitely increasing. Roberts anticipates a slight increase in values this year. New construction and older properties are competing on values. Two things can cause property values to increase: properties that are currently selling. There are 5 zones in

Liberty County and appraisers are switched out every three to five years. This gives the appraisers time to understand the county as a whole. Assessment notices typically are mailed out between the 2nd to 3rd week in May annually. Roberts stated that customers should pay attention to those notices because they will show what is happening in the market. The tax assessors do not set the tax rate, the value will affect the dollars in taxes that is paid. Valuation of property is what the tax assessor does. The taxes are set by the county commissioners, school board, industrial authority, hospital authority. Each is responsible for setting their own millage. There are several municipalities that are interested in having their own millage rate. The millage rate determines how many taxes are to be paid. The millage rate is derived by taking the net operating budget to operate and look at the value that the digest is generating for their municipality.

For a municipality to start collecting taxes the charter would have to be looked at. If the city's charter allows for the collection of taxes, then a municipality can set a millage rate. The digest is generated every year for each municipality. There is a digest for the COW that tells what the net value is for all taxable properties within the municipality. Roberts stated to take the budget and divide by the digest to get the millage rate. Depending on what the millage rate is you take that number and multiply that by the digest and that gives the dollar amount that COW can anticipate from taxes to generate for the COW.

Attorney Moses stated based off Section 4-10 of the charter and Section 4-11 and Section 4-12 authorizes the COW to collect property taxes. Roberts states the levying document handout she gave has the specifics that goes into the state's DOR requirements for a person or municipality to start collecting taxes for their district. When the COW looks at what that number yields and they get a millage rate if what that number yields and you multiply it times your net digest say it's \$2 million but your operating budget says you need 3 million then you advertise for a tax increase. There are very extensive details in the packet. On page 5 are quick tips on what COW would need to do as a municipality including public relations. The biggest hurdle will be alerting the public to know the why.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) is very strict when it comes to advertising. On the appraisal side the notices are important because they tell exemptions someone may be getting or if you're not getting any exemptions. Roberts stated there will be a workshop on May 17th about exemptions, what to do and how to qualify. The exemptions are a way an individual can reduce the amount of taxes that they pay. There are local and state exemptions, and some are age based and some are income based. The time frame to apply by April 1st of each year for the year of application but one can apply now, and it can be applied to the next year. Roberts states to become a tax authority this is the time to do it. That process requires showing the state the last 5 years of history. Mrs. Roberts gave more information to the council including the fact that there is a 45-day window to question the statement of the taxes and they do mass appraisal.

Also, there are over 28,000 parcels in Liberty County. Councilman Hendry asked if city taxes are collected, does the citizens have to pay city and county taxes to which Roberts responded yes. Mayor Baker asked if we go forward who would be the collector of the taxes to which Roberts responded that is where the tax commissioner comes in.

Councilwoman Lovette asked about the addresses because they are jumbled up. Roberts states they go by the GIS not the addresses. Anderson asked at what age does the tax-exempt start to which Roberts states can start at 62 as of Jan 1 of the application year and the secondary is age 65 and the income requirement changes every year and that is currently \$8023.00. Roberts states also personal property would benefit as well. Every year the staff gets a listing of active listing and follows the business because they are required to pay a tax on inventory. The states only recognizes a 100% service connected disability. Citizen Gwendolyn Dykes asked would they have to hire someone to do the paperwork or is it Liberty County? Mrs. Roberts states that is strictly for Walthourville to handle. Dykes asked if COW decided to put a tax would they have to honor her exemption and Roberts states that would be up to council. Mayor Baker thanked Ms. Roberts and her staff for coming and her time.

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request for American Promotional Events, Inc. dba TNT Fireworks, Inc

Ms. Parks presented a business license request for David Midgarden. The property owner is Julie Dawson. The business will be located on the premises of Dawsons General Store located at 5782 West Oglethorpe Highway. The business will sell fireworks out of an 8 x 24 wooden stand. The Walthourville Fire Department will inspect the structure and an inspection must be passed before the business can be opened. The business license has to be posted inside of the stand. They have their State license from the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner and can have up to 2 locations on the license. They must have liability insurance. They also must have Dawson's General store as an additional certificate holder. A lease agreement was provided that is between Dawson's and TNT. Ms. Parks spoke with Deputy Chief Kinney and there is an inspection scheduled for June 23rd at 10:00 AM. No questions were asked by council. Councilman Hendry made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

2. LCPC

Attorney Luke R. Moses

Liberty County Board of Elections: Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct the General Election on November 7, 2023.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement from Liberty County. Liberty County Board of Elections will conduct the election for the City. *This item was previously on the April 11, 2023 agenda and was tabled by the Mayor and Council to obtain additional cost information from Liberty County.* Mayor Baker stated that at the last council meeting they wanted to know the dollar price for the price of the election. Mayor Baker stated Mr. John McIver (Chairman of the Liberty County Board of Elections) said he would be willing to come and talk to council about how much the election would cost. Attorney Moses states he also works for the Board and could possibly get an answer later that evening. Mayor Baker asked Attorney Moses to email the information if he obtains it that night. Attorney Moses stated he would. This item was tabled by Mayor Baker.

3. LCPC

Mayor Larry D. Baker

2023-2024 Georgia Interlock Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) Renewal

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the 2023-2024 Liability and Property Insurance Renewal for the City of Walthourville. GIRMA is administered through Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). The city's 2023-2024 Insurance Renewal is \$110,392.00 The insurance period runs from May 1, 2023- April 30, 2024. Councilwoman Lovette asked what is the monthly premium for COW? Mayor Baker stated he was unsure. Mayor Baker asked Ms. Jackson if she had that information to which Ms. Jackson responded that she was not given any information regarding that (matter). Mayor Baker stated the deadline was approaching and if they have to do some adjusting then they will. Councilwoman Lovette asked Mayor Baker if he received the amount to which Mayor Baker stated he did not want to give the dollar amount as he may be off a dollar or so. Attorney Moses stated he will have to pull up the email (City Clerk, Shana T. Moss sent a comprehensive email, days prior to the meeting to the Mayor, Council detailing specifics about the renewal and the cost increase and why). Attorney Moses read verbatim the email from Ms. Moss and the city did experience a \$21,000 increase. The increase stems from a variety of reasons such as inflation and GIRMA has started a 10% increase across all members. If the city had any losses the increase would be more than 10%. According to GIRMA the COW budget increased by 7.5% from the previous year in the general fund. Also, 7 new vehicles were added, the police department increased from 6 to 10 people and the COW had 2 vehicles that were involved in accidents. Attorney Moses stated GIRMA is the gold seal on insurance. He stated it's up to council to approve but he doesn't want COW to get where they don't have liability insurance. The new renewal begins May 1st and his recommendation is to approve it. Councilwoman Lovette made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

IX. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Deputy Chief Kinney gave the stats. There have been 23 calls for the month and 244 for the year. Since the last council meeting there were 3 fire calls, 15 medical calls, 5 traffic accidents, 1 gas leak and 1 tree on a house. Deputy Chief Kinney thanked the council for coming together for the Fire Department on behalf of the Fire Department and Chief Pittman in his absence. Councilwoman Lovette asked if any of their equipment has arrived to which Deputy Chief Kinney responded the books for training has come in and 95% of all needed has been ordered.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated they had earth day on April 21st from 3-6pm. Everything was great and there were a lot of booths set up. The Walthourville clean up was on April 22nd and many were tired so she was the only one cleaning up from 9am – 11am. There was a citizen in one of the mobile home parks where a tree fell on her home and her foot was injured. She has 3 sons and 5 day old baby. Mayor Baker and the WPD also came out. Her realtors were not much help. She was able to get placed within 2 hours. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes states they were able to prevent her from being homeless.

On May 17th the tax assessor's office will come out again to give a seminar on ad valorem tax and homestead exemption at Savannah Tech College in room 144 at 6pm and will be over by 7pm. Hayes stated that anyone with any questions regarding these matters that there are different tax breaks for different ages and she will have handouts for City Hall to post on the website and Facebook. Pastor Alan Stewart said he had an issue about the property tax and stated that from a moral stance all government spending last year was 10.7 trillion dollars and that is local, state and federal. Stewart stated that is equivalent to 122% of the American Population working 365 days for \$88/day and that maybe it can be reconsidered on the tax burden that would be placed on the residents where there is about 5000 people when there is no grocery store, no auto parts store, very little industry and those are all things of revenue that we are missing out on but we would be asking for more money and when you do that you will be transferring all that to City Hall. He requested the council to consider the ramifications, of raising the taxes without looking for other sources to bring revenue into our community.

Gwendolyn Dykes stated she wants to keep everyone working and happy but she would appreciate it at the next meeting if they could see how much money was spent last year and how much was taken in because since she has been here that we have done a lot for the city and not had a city tax so she feels like in a sense that she is operating in the dark. Dykes stated that she doesn't know how much money was brought in and how much money was spent so if you (Council) would consider that she would be appreciative.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Stated he did not speak with Mr. Dave Martin and had no report. Councilwoman Lovette stated she had a question to which Mayor Baker stated they are trying to buy mosquito control but the company has gone out of business and they are trying to locate a new one (company). Councilwoman Lovette stated she had been asking for the ditch on Emily Cooke to be cleaned out but the dirt was pushed into the culvert and was wondering if they were coming back to make a clearway to which Councilman Hendry stated yes, in the morning. Councilman Hendry stated that put milling on all dirt roads and Emily Cooke is next. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes states she put in a work order for the subdivision and was told they were coming and that she put the work order in with City Hall. Councilman Hendry stated he spoke with Mr. Martin and that he was going to do the work she requested but she was headed out of town. Hayes stated she had spoken with Mr. Martin since then and was asking because her work order was already in and Hendry was talking about Emily Cooke. Councilman Hendry let her know that is a county job he is performing. Hayes asked who do she put a work order in to which Hendry responded the Mayor (Baker) and he can put it in.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette L. Kelly

Councilwoman Kelly stated that Southern Civil is still in the city and there have been a couple of water outages at no fault of the city that were fixed in a timely fashion. Mayor Baker asked if there were any calls to which Kelly stated no and City Hall stated

no. Councilwoman Lovette stated there is a woman over on Smiley that is having problems with water settling in the yard and low water pressure. Lovette did not have an address and if she calls or comes back she will direct them to city hall.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Councilwoman Lovette states she was supposed to meet with the companies on quotes for fencing, but they had to reschedule for Wednesday afternoon. Councilwoman Lovette asked if they were going to get dirt to fill in certain areas at the park to which Hendry responded yes, they have plenty of dirt. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she spoke with Mrs. Lana Walthour of Alpha Kappa Alpha and they have 6 trees that she is donating to the park.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Chief Reed stated since the last council meeting there have been 25 incidents, 9 total accidents, 92 traffic stops with 97 citations issued and 24 traffic warnings issued, a total of 45 reports and almost 6000 miles driven. Reed stated they are in the process of training with the justice one system. He reached out to a company about the robo call unlimited usage but the payment is based upon how many companies you are trying to reach. Reed states he spoke with Enterprise and the vehicle has gone up \$6000 and the longer we wait the higher the price. Mayor Baker stated they need to act on this because we requested SPLOST funds amount at the last council meeting. Reed stated we could take the amount from the vehicle that was totaled out and any equipment that's required on the vehicle can be added to the lease.

Councilwoman Lovette asked what is the additional amount? Reed responded the lights could be added to the lease. Councilwoman Kelly stated that would mean the lease would be more. Councilwoman Lovette asked Mayor Baker where is the accountant? Mayor Baker states the information about the SPLOST was sent out days ago and he is waiting to hear back from the accountant. Councilwoman Lovette asked where did the email come from because she didn't recall receiving Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated it came on April 20th from City Clerk, Shana T. Moss. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked how many officers and vehicles do we have? Reed stated 9 officers and 10 vehicles. Councilwoman Kelly asked if the additional vehicle, if approved, is it added into the insurance or will it make the insurance increase. Mayor Baker stated it is a replacement vehicle. Reed stated he does not believe the vehicle was ever removed off the insurance. Hayes asked why it don't he rotate the vehicles until we get the budget straight. Chief Reed stated the vehicle that is parked is the part time officer's vehicle that stays when he is not working. Reed stated there are 3 vehicles with fuel issues and 1 that went into full service because it was under warranty and once it came back it had the same issue, damaged because of the fuel. Baker stated when a vehicle gets to a certain mileage it needs to be replaced. Reed stated his vehicle is new but around 100,000 miles is when a vehicle needs to be replaced. Reed said we may run into a maintenance issue if we start running and wearing a vehicle down. Kelly asked if we could find a cheaper vehicle to which Reed responded yes.

Gwendolyn Dykes asked about the robo call. Reed stated that everyone is not on social media and the robo call is to help notify citizens. Dykes also asked if when shopping for a vehicle do they shop around and that if it's a vehicle and we're adding police stuff then the police stuff can't be negotiated but the vehicle it looks like and that's her

thought. Councilman Anderson asked if they lease they vehicle do we still pay for the maintenance to which Reed responded it depends on if they purchase a maintenance plan. If they outright purchase it then all the maintenance is done through the shop. Lovette asked the vehicles ages. Reed stated the Ford is 2020 and he believes the 2 Durangos and 2 Tahoes are 2022 and 4 2023 Tahoes. Reed stated that in about 2 years that the Fords would need to be replaced and that is 3 because one was totaled out. Anderson asked which vehicle is most durable. Reed stated we have dirt roads and we are going to need a truck. Kelly asked what do we need to move around? Reed responded sometimes things from the shed. Lovette asked if they don't ask public work to help and Reed stated that is an option and they can shop around again. Baker asked what do council want to do about the replacement vehicle? Lovette stated we need to speak with Matthew Caines first and that he needs to show up at least once every quarter for a meeting. Mayor Baker stated we will need reach out to Matthew Caines.

Office of the Mayor

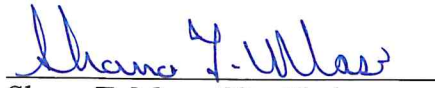
Mayor Larry D. Baker


Mayor Baker asked Ms. Jackson about the upcoming weekend. Ms. Jackson gave a reminder about the 1st Annual Farmer's Market coming up on April 29th from 8:00 AM – noon at City Hall which is in celebration of Cities Week. Setup will begin at 7am and we have about 20 vendors.

- X. Adjournment: Motion was given by Councilman Hendry and seconded by Councilwoman Kelly. Adjournment was at 7:25pm

Minutes Submitted by Kara Jackson

City Clerk, Shana T. Moss was on Medical Leave.


Shana T. Moss, City Clerk


Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
May 9, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

**Agenda
*The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding***

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |

- April 25, 2023 Regular Meeting

VII. Presentations:

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. City of Walthourville

Mrs. Ronda G. Walthour

Liberty County Chief Registrar/Elections Supervisor

Liberty County Board of Elections: Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct the General Election on November 7, 2023.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement from Liberty County. Liberty County Board of Elections will conduct the election for the city. *This item was previously on the April 11th and April 25th, 2023 Agenda's and was tabled by the Mayor and Council both time to obtain additional cost information from Liberty County.*

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

The
attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney, Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

- III. The Invocation was given by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously
- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes from the April 25, 2023 Meeting. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: Councilwoman Lovette
- VII. Presentations: None
- VIII. Agenda Items

1. Liberty County Board of Elections Mrs. Ronda G. Walthour
Liberty County Board of Elections Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct the General Election on November 7, 2023. Liberty County Chief Registrar/Elections Supervisor, Mrs. Ronda G. Walthour and Chairman John McIver presented an overview of the associated cost for the election. *This item was previously on the April 11th and April 25th, 2023 Agendas. The item was tabled several times because some members of the council wanted additional exact cost information.*

Councilwoman Lovette wanted it stated that she was not opposed to Liberty County conducting the election.

Chairman McIver referenced Section 3 of the IGA that pertains to the city's payment to the Board of Commissioners. He stated there was no way to know exactly the cost of the election due to not knowing the number of voters that will vote. He also mentioned the cost will be associated with the voting precinct, the number of poll workers needed, the number of voters who vote during the early voting period and the cities will have to share the cost for early voting. The Chairman stated, "folks we cannot tell until the exact cost until Election Day." I do know the cost will be shared fairly.

Mrs. Walthour stated the Liberty County Board of Commissioners tried to find the most economical way for the cities to absorb the cost for the election. She stated the cost of the election will be divided between the five municipalities that are having an election and the cost will also be associated with the number of voters that turn out. For example, the larger the municipality and the more voters that municipality will absorb more of the cost. Mrs. Walthour also that tangible cost are also associated with the election such as advertising (venue change) and Walthourville has a change of venue that must be advertised because Walthourville's voting precinct has changed from the Police Department to Victory Baptist Church on Talmadge Road. Also, food for the poll workers will be provided on the day of the election and all cities will share in the cost. The motion to approve the IGA to allow Liberty County Board of Elections to conduct the City's General Election was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

2. LCPC

Mrs. Lori Parks

Business License Request for a Rage Room. The purpose-built room is where people can vent their rage destroying objects in a controlled environment. Mrs. Parks stated the owner was Mr. Joes Gomez and the business will be located at 5253 West Oglethorpe Highway. Mr. Gomez stated he was new to the area and he saw that there was no entertainment in Liberty County. He stated the items that would be used would be plates, cups, and saucers. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes, asked, what would be the hours of operation? Mr. Gomez stated 10:00 AM-10:00 PM. She also asked if there would be anyone on duty for medical emergencies and if he would have a certificate for First Aid. He stated no. Councilwoman Kelly asked, where would he dispose of the breakage? He stated he would be responsible for taking it to the dump. The council inquired about a counselor on duty and Mr. Gomez stated there would be no counselor. The motion to approve the business was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. LCPC

Mrs. Lori Parks

Zoning Permit for a mobile home. Mrs. Parks presented a zoning permit for Mr. Joe Darley of Clayton Homes. The owner of the property is Mr. John Barnard, Jr. The city will provide city sewer and water if the property is in proximity to the

city's connection lines. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

IX. City Reports

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Deputy Chief Jamal Kinney gave the report. He stated this year the department has received 33 calls, 8 fires and 3 traffic accidents. He also Thanked the Mayor and Council for approving equipment. The city's first ever ladder truck arrived today and it will be beneficial to the city. He introduced Fairburn's Fire Chief, Cornelius D. Robinson. Chief Robinson stated, "he was delighted to be in Walthourville, and it was a pleasure to work with the city to secure equipment. He stated he worked with the City Clerk, Shana T. Moss for several years and when she made the call to ask about fire equipment, he did not hesitate to help her, he had to assist. He stated he was excited for the City of Walthourville, and he was available to help in any capacity that he could." Mayor Baker stated, "Chief, you have been an inspiration and we Thank you for going above and beyond." Mayor Pro Tem Hayes, stated, "Thank you so much Chief, you are greatly appreciated." Councilmembers Anderson and Lovette both Thanked Chief Robinson for his assistance.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Stated that both Earth Day and the Recycle Fairs were a success. With both events being back-to-back, everyone was exhausted, but it was a good day. She Thanked the City Hall Staff, Water Department, Fire and Police Departments.

Public Works:

Councilman James Hendry

Sated grass is growing, and the city staff is cutting grass. All trash is being collected.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

stated Southern Civil is still in the city and there have been no reports or calls of smelly or discolored water.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Stated she received a quote for a wrought iron fence at a cost of \$155,000 and this is the lowest price.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Police Chief Christopher Reed gave the report. He stated the department have generated 20 reports 11 incidents, 3 accidents 47 traffic violations and 55 citations and 20 warnings. Chief Reed stated he was working on a lower quote for the Police department for a vehicle. He stated the prices continue to increase. He also referenced POWER DMS. Power DMS is a one-stop workforce platform, for public safety, city employees and elected officials. Chief Reed stated he would send an email for an informational session for all to attend.

Shana T. Moss
City Clerk
Larry D. Baker



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
May 23, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Fire Chief, John Pittman
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | • May 9, 2023 Regular Meeting | |
| VII. | Presentations: | |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | |

Public Hearing

1. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Liberty County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Mr. Ricketson addressed the Mayor and Council on January 10, 2023 regarding the UDO and he stated he would return in a few months for the adoption. The Mayor and Council were updated and given information.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Liberty County Unified Development Ordinance.

2. City of Walthourville

Mr. Matthew Caines

Informational City Financial Update. The Council had requested Mr. Caines attend a meeting to discuss the city's financials.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|--|
| IX. | City Reports | Councilmembers / Department Heads |
| | Fire Department | Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr. |
| | Economic Development | Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes |
| | Public Works | Councilman James Hendry |
| | Water Department | Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly |
| | Parks and Recreation | Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette |
| | Police Department | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| | Office of the Mayor | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| X. | Executive Session | Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes |
| XI. | Adjournment | Councilmembers |

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman James Hendry	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette	

Member Absent: Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

The attendance of Council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

- III. The invocation was given by Mayor Baker.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 4-0 Motion Carried.
- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes from the May 9th, 2023 Regular Meeting. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: CW Lovette.
- VII. Presentation(s) None
- VIII. Agenda Items

1. Public Hearing was entered into at 6:06 PM.

LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Liberty County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Mr. Ricketson stated the UDO was a collaboration with all the municipalities and Liberty County Government. The UDO unifies zoning, subdivisions and it unifies all jurisdictions. He explained that the UDO is organize into 8 divisions which are:

1. Enactment and General Provisions
2. Zoning Districts

- 3. Development Provisions
- 4. Site Plan Review
- 5. Subdivision
- 6. Zoning Actions, Appeals and Variances
- 7. Administration
- 8. Definitions and Abbreviations

Mr. Ricketson stated this presentation was for the public hearing and he would return before the Mayor and Council to adopt later.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

- 2. City of Walthourville Mr. Matthew Caines
 Informational City Financial Update. Mr. Caines addressed the Mayor and Council relating to the General Fund. He stated the City began the 2023 Budget Year with a \$300,000+ deficit due to the Council voting to remove the Fire Fee that they asked him to compile. He stated the Fire Fee Revenue that was discussed during the Budget Meeting workshops the council had removed, as that was the only way they would have passed the 2023 Budget. The revenue was taken out, yet the expenses are/were still forthcoming. He stated the city's expenses have increased tremendously; yet the city's revenue has remained stagnant. The city's LOST Revenue is received monthly, but that does not sustain the General Fund.

He stated the city's expenses have expended the General Fund's Budget. He stated the Police Department's budget is in arrears by \$237,000. The department has spent \$76,000 overages in salaries and \$40,000 was spent on uniforms and \$44,000 was spent on Capital Outlay. Mr. Caines stated the Fire Department was in the green, their budget wasn't negative.

Mr. Caines stated the 2023 General Fund's Budget was adopted with \$2.1 million dollars in expenses with only \$1.8 million in revenue. He stated these figures clearly illustrate that the city expenses are surpassing the revenue. He informed the Mayor and Council that they must find a way to generate revenue whether it's through property tax, fire fee tax or a city fee. Mr. Caines stated the city's General Fund payroll equals about \$38,000 biweekly and he asked City Clerk, Shana T. Moss the amount when the Mayor and Council are paid and Ms. Moss stated it is around \$42,000. Mr. Caines had no additional suggestions except that the Mayor and Council need to find a way to generate revenue for the city to operate and function.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated some action needs to be taken by the Mayor and Council because if the city continues heading in this direction, layoffs will have to occur and she doesn't want to see anyone lose their jobs. She stated she would be willing to donate her (councilmember) salary.

- IX. City Reports Councilmembers/Department Heads
- Fire Department Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Deputy Chief, Jamal Kinney gave the report. Councilman Charlie L. Anderson was absent. Deputy Chief Kinney stated the department has answered 52 calls, there has been 4 fire calls within the last two weeks. He stated the Department is operating effectively and efficiently.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Reported that on May 17th a Homestead Exemption Training was offered at Savannah Technical College. The training was conducted by Liberty County Tax Assessors Office. Mrs. Glenda Roberts and her team gave valuable information. The Mayor Pro Tem stated she was also looking into other things for the city. Councilwoman Lovette asked if she had received the Economic Development Grant Information that was disseminated by GMA, Mrs. Pam Helton. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she would research it.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Reported that citizens are complaining about their driveways and dirt washing away. He also stated that Liberty County has depleted its milling, but they will be getting some more. Councilwoman Lovette asked about the cost of the milling and who was paying. She stated she had seen several of the Commissioners and she thanked them for the milling in Walthourville. She said, none of them knew anything about them (Commissioners) being responsible for the bill and she was concerned if the city would have to pay the cost. Mayor Baker stated the milling was being paid for by the Commissioners because he had talked to them.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Reported that Southern Civil has installed the Aerator at Well 3 on Carter Road. She stated there has been no calls of smelly water.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Reported that there are Grants available for Parks and she is researching some.

Police Department


Mayor Larry D. Baker

Police Chief Christopher Reed gave the departmental statistics. He stated since the last meeting the department had 15 incidents, one was juvenile based, 1 domestic, 3 complaints, 1 stolen vehicle and 62 traffic stops. Chief Reed stated due to safety concerns he is contemplating a one-way entrance for the road running in front of the Police Department. He stated the city would have to give citizens 60 days' notice and there would be signs stated Emergency Vehicles only. Chief Reed stated that the parking lot is small, and it gets congested and the city's ladder truck will not be able to enter and exit freely if the parking lot remains as it is.

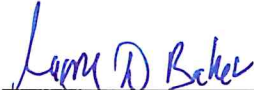
Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

- X. Executive Session: An executive session was listed on the agenda for Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. She stated an Executive Session was not needed.
- XI. Adjournment: At 6:32 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
June 13, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

*** Amended (06-12-2023) Agenda
*The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding***

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Deputy Fire Chief, Jamal Kinney
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------------------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| VII. | Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May 23, 2023- Regular Meeting Minutes | None |
| VIII. | Public Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Alma Wells Cox | Hillary Lane and Jones Court |
| IX. | Agenda Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. LCPC
Variance Request 2023-028-W. A variance request is being submitted by T.R. Long Engineering for a a subdivision on Talmadge Road to allow the project to be developed without the installation of curb and gutter and sidewalks along State Route 119 (Talmadge Road). The property is located at the intersection of Arnall Drive and Talmadge Road and is further described as LCTM Parcel 051C-009.
Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the request. | Ms. Lori Parks |

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For a Lawn Care Business/Triple Threat & More.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Rashaye and Samuel Mickel of 16 Springer Court, in the Hunters Branch Subdivision. The property is zoned R-2 (Two-Family Residential District).

3. City of Walthourville

Deputy Chief Jamal Kinney

***Liberty County Fire Services Mutual Aid Agreement.**

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove the Mutual Aid Agreement for Liberty County Fire Services and the City of Walthourville.

City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

Mayor Larry D. Baker

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2023
6:00 PM @ Walthourville Police Department

I. Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.

II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	

Member Absent: Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

**The attendance of Council constituted a Quorum.*

Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance telephonic.

III. Invocation was given by Councilman Anderson.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Adoption of City Council Agenda. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.

Vote:4-0: Motion Carried.

VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes. The motion to approve the May 23, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

VII. Presentations: None

VIII. Public Comments: Mrs. Alma Wells Cox had requested to be placed on the agenda and called and canceled her request on June 13, 2023.

IX. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Variance Request. 2023-028-W. A Variance Request was submitted by T.R. Long Engineering for a subdivision on Talmadge Road to allow the project to be developed without the installation of curb and gutter and sidewalks along State Route 119 (Talmadge Road). The property is located at the intersection of Arnall Drive and Talmadge Road and is further described as LCTM Parcel 051C-009. Mr. Keith Carswell of T.R. Long was present on behalf of T.R. Long Engineering.

Mr. Carswell stated that Talmadge Road is a State Road that is operated and maintained by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The number of driveways along Talmadge Road has been limited to four driveways. This will reduce the points of ingress and ingress onto the State Route. The proposed area will have 24 lots and these homes will have sidewalks. There is a 40 foot easement due to the Atlanta Natural Gas line that runs through the property. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked about the installation of curbs and gutters. Mr. Carswell and Ms. Parks stated the City of Walthourville has subdivision requirements that states, "concrete curbs and gutters shall be installed along new streets and roadways. Existing public roadways that are included in or are adjacent to the development or subdivision and serve as direct access to the development or to subdivision lots shall be developed and improved to the same curb, gutter, and sidewalk standards as new streets. This information is found in the city's ordinance Section 7.1 The motion to approve the variance request was made by Councilman Anderson and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For a Lawn Care Business/Triple Threat and More. Presented a Business License request for Rashaye and Samuel Mickel of 16 Springer Court. The business will be located in Hunters Branch Subdivision and is zoned R-2. Ms. Parks stated the applicant needed to have written approval from the property owner. As of this meeting the applicant had not submitted the letter to LCPC. Councilman Anderson made the motion to disapprove until the letter from the property owner could be submitted and the request is brought back to the Mayor and Council. The second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

3. City of Walthourville

Deputy Chief Jamal Kinney

*Liberty County Fire Services Mutual Aid Agreement. Deputy Chief Kinney stated he met with Liberty County Fire Chief Darby regarding the MAA with Liberty County and the City of Walthourville. Chief Darby stated the 2023 MAA had been given to the Fire Chief (Former Chief John Pittman) to bring to the Mayor and Council. This agreement would have paid the city \$16,000. However, due to the MAA not being presented the city lost the money. Chief Kinney further stated the new MAA the county has revamped to pay the city per call of \$ 175.00 when the city assists the unincorporated areas of Liberty County. Chief Kinney stated for the first time in the history of the department all 19 Firefighters are certified. Due to the certification, he felt \$175.00 per call was not sufficient. He advised the Mayor and Council that the city could reject the MAA and inform the county that the city would like to remain and keep the \$16,000 annually. The motion to approve to give Deputy Chief Kinney authorization to negotiate with Liberty County and bring the revised MAA back to the elected officials was made by Councilman Anderson and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

City Reports

During this time the city experienced a torrential dangerous thunderstorm, the Fire and Police Departments vacated the premises to assist with a tree that fell across the road and onto a vehicle in front of the Police Department.

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Deputy Chief Kinney presented his departments report. He reiterated that the department was 100% Certified. The department has answered 37 calls, they had 10 fire calls and 4 accidents. Currently, they have answered 344 calls year to date. He also stated the doorbell was out at the Fire Department and if someone comes over and they don't answer they cannot hear. The air conditioner is almost installed, and the contractor is awaiting the trusses they have to be installed. Councilwoman Kelly asked Mayor Baker about the cost of the project. Mayor Baker stated he did not have the accurate figure(s) but the project is roughly \$ 175,000. Deputy Chief Kinney introduced Captain Nicholas Maxwell who reiterated the comments of Deputy Chief Kinney about all Firefighters being certified.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Reported that she delivered 8 trees to the AKA's. Liberty County is sponsoring fee lunches during the summer to children ages 18 and below at Hillery Park, Monday-Friday. She also attended a Youth Matters Mental Health Initiative that was very beneficial and informative.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Reported that all is well and the department is trying to maintain. Mayor Pro Tem asked, when is Mr. Martin coming back to Oakridge and when will the pipes in the area be flushed? Councilman Hendry stated it has been raining and the ground will need to be dry. The water department will have to flush the pipes. Mayor Baker and Councilman Hendry stated they will contact Liberty County Road Department about bringing their equipment and there will not be a charge to the city.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Reported the department is doing well. She has received no calls or complaints.

Parks and Recreation
Absent

Councilman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Chief Reed was unavailable due to answering a call from the thunderstorm.

Office of the Mayor

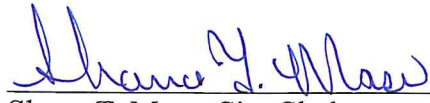
Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

Mayor Larry D. Baker

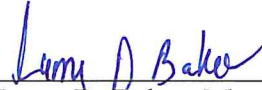
At 6:31 PM a motion to enter into Executive Session for Real Estate was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.



Handwritten signature of Shana T. Moss in blue ink.

Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Handwritten signature of Larry D. Baker in blue ink.

Larry D. Baker, Mayor

X. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Adoption of Liberty County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Mr. Ricketson addressed the Mayor and Council on January 10, 2023, regarding the UDO. Mr. Ricketson returned on May 23, 2023, for a Public Hearing.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the Liberty County Unified Development Ordinance.

2. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Ordinance for Realtors and Rental Property. The City is currently incurring the cost when tenants move out and leave debris and waste. This causes financial hardship for the city.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve an ordinance that will address rentals.

XI. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

XII. Executive Session

None

XIII. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette	

Member Absent: Councilman James Hendry

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

- III. Mayor Larry D. Baker gave the invocation.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.
Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes:

- June 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Anderson. (Members voting in favor: Mayor Pro Tem Hayes, Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr. and Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly). Vote 3-0: Motion Carried. (Councilwoman Lovette abstained).
- June 13, 2023 Executive Session Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. (Members voting in favor: Mayor Pro Tem Hayes, Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr. and Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly). Vote: 3-0: Motion Carried. (Councilwoman Lovette abstained).

- VII. Public Comments.

1. Ms. Alma Wells stated she resides off Hillary Lane at 84 Jones Court. She called Commissioner Gary Gillard about the paving/milling on the roads in Walthourville. She inquired about why Sanders Road would be milled when there is not a lot of traffic on that

road? She stated on Jones Court the school bus cannot travel down the road because the road is so bad. She further stated she was told the dirt roads belongs to the city and what is the process for getting the roads paved/milled? She said, "Hardwick, Smith, Emily Cooke and other roads were done and why not her road?" Mayor Baker stated the county was out of the supply of milling. The county would be replenishing their supply and when the product becomes available Hillary and Jones Court would be milled. Ms. Wells asked, if the road could be scraped? Mayor Baker said, he would contact the county about scraping the road.

VIII. Presentations:

1. Consolidated Pipe

Mr. Joey Todd

INFOMRATIONAL PRESENTATION ONLY.

Mr. Todd stated the city's water meter system (digital) was installed in 2013 and these meters have a 10-year warranty. He stated he has been in communication with Ms. Moss and she wanted him to come and present to council so they would have ample time to make their decision on whether to upgrade or remain with the same system. He stated it was time for the city to consider a system wide upgrade. He stated the new proposed system will consist of an AUI Reading that will be done remotely using the city's water tower. The new system will inform the city of daily alarms on citizens' accounts and would provide 24-hour monitoring. The new system will eliminate the monthly readings by the Water Department and City Hall. In his presentation hand-out, Mr. Todd provided the cost of roughly \$ 806,000. CW Kelly, asked "if this was a baseline price?" Mr. Todd, said, "yes, give or take." He stated the city could work with the city's engineering firm (Turnipseed Engineering) to see about financing options such as GEFA or Government Capital.

Councilman Anderson asked, "who would do the work and how long would it take and if the city would get any credit for trading in the old meters?" Mr. Todd said two months and a contractor would perform the work and yes the city would be credited for trading in the old meters with a 1 for 1 discounted price which would equate to \$ 45.00 per meter. Councilwoman Lovette, asked, "are meters only guaranteed for 10 years?" Mr. Todd stated that is the standard warranty and life expectancy for any meter in the industry. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked would there be a back up system at City Hall. Mr. Todd replied, the city would be available at City Hall as well as on the company's hard drive. The Mayor and Council did not take any action as this was an informational presentation. Councilwoman Kelly said this would be an item for the 2024 Budget.

City of Walthourville

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Stated that the Water Department and City Hall Team worked hard to ensure the department operates efficiently and that, "oftentimes, they have to deal with people who are not so nice." She is the liaison for the water department, and she appreciates their hard work. This acknowledgement was a surprise to the Water Department, City Hall and Police Department personnel. She gave certificates to Mr. Glenn Mack, Mr. Jeromy Holiday, Mr. Ernest Sapp, Mr. Patrick Golphin, Ms. Kara Jackson, Mrs. Chantal Smith-Burns, Police

Chief Christopher Reed, Major Anthony Hooker and Sergeant James Fulwood. A photo was taken of the entire group along with Mayor Larry D. Baker and Councilwoman Kelly.



IX. Agenda Items

1. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Stated he was here for the City of Walthourville to join Liberty County and the other municipalities to adopt the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Mr. Ricketson initially presented this information to the Mayor and Council on January 10, 2023 and he returned on May 23, 2023 for a Public Hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked about the Board of Directors in Section 11-32. Mr. Ricketson looked for the information and stated it did not mean a Board, and that each municipality could amend if they wanted something to add or delete in the UDO. Councilwoman Lovette asked about the Board of Directors in relation to the planning commission. Mr. Ricketson stated it was different, although it was a UDO, each individual city could modify. The motion to approve the UDO was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

2. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Stated she wanted to address the bulk trash pickup in the city. She stated she has been a resident of Walthourville since the 1990's and bulk trash collection has become a major problem for the City. She referenced pictures that City Clerk Moss emailed (attached) the council about the debris/garbage that was left outside of a residence when the tenant moved out. She also referenced a location in the Oakridge Subdivision. Mayor Pro Tem stated the issue is when citizens/rental companies (tenants) move out they are leaving the entire house for the city to collect. This results in high cost to the city via Liberty County Landfill fees and the cost to the city of having to go back and forth to the landfill. She stated some parameters guidelines need to be enacted if the city will be responsible for picking it up.



City Attorney Luke R. Moses referenced O.C.G.A. 11-44 (1B) maintaining a disorderly house. He stated the city could not refuse to pick it up. But the city could charge the person and take them to municipal court. City Clerk, Shana T. Moss, "stated taking the person to court and recouping the money was not helping when citizens call about wanting the trash removed immediately. She referenced the pictures she sent to the Mayor and Council that clearly illustrated household garbage was on the ground in bags instead of the trash receptacle and this posed an environmental hazard as well as a health concern to the residents." Ms. Moss further "stated to pick up an entire household of waste leads to a full truck and the drivers leaving the city to go to the landfill and return. She stated the city is losing money and the city's landfill bill is already astronomical." Councilwoman Lovette asked, "was the city going to enforce the ordinance?" Mayor Pro Tem stated the city did not have an ordinance with repercussions. She stated every time this is discussed the council takes no action with fees. Councilwoman Kelly stated she felt the fee should start at \$1500.00. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated the realtors are also guilty. She observed a realtor cleaning out a house and dumping the entire house for the city to pick up. Attorney Moses stated he could draft a letter for City Hall to send out to all realtors and for customers to be informed about bulk trash pickup when they initiate utility service in the city. The Mayor and Council agreed for Attorney

Moses to draft the letter that will be sent to all realtors and this letter will be included in the city's welcome packet. All citizens are given a brochure by the City Hall Team when they move to the city.

X. Council Reports Councilmembers/Department Heads

Fire Department Councilman Anderson
Deputy Fire Chief, Jamal Kinney gave the report. He stated there have been 63 total calls since the last meeting. The department had 4 fire calls, 21, EMS and a total of 407 calls for the year. He stated the new gear should be in, in a few weeks and the new pumper tanker is still under construction.

Economic Development Mayor Pro Tem Hayes
Reported that she participated in the Annual 9 Mile Walk to Dorchester on June 17th, 2023. She has restarted her Free Computer and Smart Phone Classes for Senior Citizens. She reported the Walthourville Senior Citizen Organization now has a bicycle club and they ride and are excited to add this component to their organization. The groups last outing was to Jesup where they enjoyed shopping. She said they are planning to take a train ride in the future.

Water Department Councilwoman Kelly
Reported the Aerator on Well 3 went live on June 23rd, 2023. She reported that she and Mayor Pro Tem Hayes, several City Hall Members and the Water Department were also on site to watch the launch. There have been no reports of smelly discolored water.

Parks and Recreation Councilwoman Lovette
Reported she had no report this meeting.

Police Department Mayor Larry D. Baker
Chief Christopher Reed gave the report. He stated within the last report the department has generated 18 reports and has worked 8 vehicle crashes. He stated two officers have participated in and completed a search and seizure class. Also, the officers would be participating in a Juvenile law class offered by Ft. Stewart CID. Municipal Court Clerk, Mrs. Barbara Cauley will be participating in a class with Liberty County Magistrate Court on June 30th. The Police Department will be closed on Friday June 30th, due to the trainings.


Chief Reed asked Major Anthony Hooker to give an update. Major Hooker stated he has been working with Walmart on the Front Door Grant. This grant is geared toward the elderly where this grant will allow them to shop at Walmart. The qualifications are:

- Must be 62 years of age
- Must be a citizen of Walthourville


Major Hooker stated it was important that the department focused on the elderly, because they always target the youth. He is excited about this opportunity for the Walthourville Senior Citizens.

Chief Reed stated there would be a Back-to-School Rally planning meeting at City Hall on June 29th, 2023. This rally is for the entire City to work together. Mayor Pro Tem stated she has some coats and shoes that she would like to incorporate for this event or another event to assist the children in Walthourville.

- XI. Executive Session None
- XII. Adjournment: At 7:05 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly with the second being provided by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. Vote:4-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
July 11, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

***AMENDED Agenda (July 10, 2023)**

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Deputy Fire Chief, Jamal Kinney
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | • June 27, 2023 | |
| VII. | Presentations: | |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | |

1. LCPC **Ms. Lori Parks**

Beer and Wine Alcohol License.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Beer and Wine License Application for Family Dollar Store # 30979. The Business is located at 5549 West Oglethorpe Highway in Walthourville. The location meets all distance requirements for off-premises consumption per Code Section 4-19 (b). The store is more than 150 ft. from any residence and more than 300 ft. from any church or school.

2. City of Walthourville **Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes**
SPLOST 6 & 7 Discussion. *(Amended Item)

3. City of Walthourville **Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes**
Update on Realtor/Citizen Letter drafted by City Attorney Moses.
***(Amended Item)**

IX. City Reports **Councilmembers / Department Heads**

Fire Department **Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.**

Economic Development **Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes**

Public Works **Councilman James Hendry**

Water Department **Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly**

Parks and Recreation **Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette**

Police Department **Mayor Larry D. Baker**

Office of the Mayor **Mayor Larry D. Baker**

X. Executive Session **None**

XI. Adjournment **Councilmembers**

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation



City of Walthourville

July 11, 2023 No Meeting



City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
July 25, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

Regular Meeting Agenda

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Deputy Fire Chief, Jamal Kinney
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 11, 2023 No Minutes due to no meeting (no quorum)• June 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes | |

VII. Presentations:

VIII. Agenda Items:

Public Hearing

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Rezoning Petition 2023-047-W. A rezoning petition submitted by Dale Kiefer on
On behalf of Brenda Kiefer, who is the owner to rezone 0.5 acres +/- from AR-1
(Agricultural Residential District) to R-8 (Single-Family Residential District-8) for a
single-family home. The property is located on Mehalko Road in Walthourville and is
further described as LCTM Parcel 063A-031 (portion thereof).

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Beer and Wine Alcohol License.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Beer and Wine License Application for Family Dollar Store # 30979. The Business is located at 5549 West Oglethorpe Highway in Walthourville. The location meets all distance requirements for off-premises consumption per Code Section 4-19 (b). The store is more than 150 ft. from any residence and more than 300 ft. from any church or school.

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

SPLOST 6 & 7 Discussion.

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Realtor/Citizen Letter. City Attorney, Mr. Luke R. Moses was requested by the Mayor and Council at the June 13th, 2023 meeting to draft a letter for Liberty County Realtors/Landlord.

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

None

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

Councilman Hendry made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. Vote: 4-0. Motion Carried.

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Beer and Wine Alcohol License.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Beer and Wine License Application for Family Dollar Store # 30979. The Business is located at 5549 West Oglethorpe Highway in Walthourville. The location meets all distance requirements for off-premises consumption per Code Section 4-19 (b). The store is more than 150 ft. from any residence and more than 300 ft. from any church or school. No questions were asked by council.

Councilwoman Kelly made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. Vote: 3-1. Motion Carried

Opposed: Councilman Anderson

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

SPLOST 6 & 7 Discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes stated she requested information from City Hall which was included in the Agenda packet for the July 25, 2023 council meeting. Hayes stated that at the last council meeting when road paving was discussed with Councilwoman Lovette and that at this meeting Hendry stated the county would take care of it. Hayes stated that Liberty County sent out a letter that stated the amount Walthourville would have received but information showed that Walthourville would not receive that amount because of road maintenance where asphalt milling was loaded and leaving a balance owed by Walthourville. Hayes asked "what happened?" Mayor Baker stated that was his answer and stated he will get with County Administrator Joey Brown in the county regarding invoice that was received. City Attorney Luke Moses asked if any bill has been received from the county.

Mayor Baker and Attorney Moses stated not to their knowledge. Moses stated the city entered into intergovernmental agreement and he presumed that SPLOST 7 was approved by the council, and he will investigate the agreements. Hayes asked what agreement was he talking about to which Moses asked if she was reading from the agreement. Hayes stated that part of the SPLOST was going to go to parks and recreation. Moses asked if Hayes was reading from the SPLOST 7 agreement to which Hayes responded she was reading from the May 2023 SPLOST 7 distribution list and May 3rd list for what Walthourville owes. Councilwoman Kelly stated the county sent the letter stating Walthourville owes and the amount. Mayor Baker stated it is not the intergovernmental agreement.

Moses stated he was not prepared to answer them at that time and asked that the questions be sent to him so he could find out the answers. Hayes asked Moses if he had the same packet as hers to which he stated he doesn't have the intergovernmental agreement in front of him. Moses stated that any questions can be sent to him so he can find out the answer before the meeting. Hayes states the city is billed for additional time to Attorney Moses. Moses states that was not true and the city has not been billed for additional time even though they have exceeded the time and that it will only take 5 minutes to find the answer to question if he has the question in advance. Hayes stated she brought it up to the mayor and that she assumed that he and the Mayor would discuss it. Moses stated that if there any questions that will require input from outside

agencies that he is happy to get the answer to the questions but cannot answer them on the spot. Moses also stated he has not billed council for additional time. Hayes states there must have been a communication problem. Moses states no middleman is needed and that they can come to him or the Mayor. Kelly asked who made the intergovernmental agreement to which Moses stated the council and all the governments created.

Kelly stated she is asking about the milling to which Mayor Baker stated the milling is part of the intergovernmental agreement. Moses stated if the questions could be sent to him so he can get the answers. Kelly asked who called the county or did they take it upon themselves to pave the road? Moses stated he was not sure how the decision was made to pave roads but it could be the county's decision to maintain roads. Hayes asked Hendry how did it all come about and if they discussed it with him. Hendry asked Kelly if she has a problem with the milling to be on the road. Moses states all the answers to the questions could be found by talking with the County Administrator.

Moses asked how much is in the SPLOST and council stated we do not have a financial person there to answer. Moses stated there is nobody there to accurately answer the questions on that night. Hayes asked if Moses knew about the money being spent to which he stated no he didn't and that if he had the questions they could've been ready to discuss the questions on that night. Mayor Baker asked if the questions were emailed to Attorney Moses and they could put the matter on the next agenda. Councilman Anderson read the SPLOST details and asked where we would get the rest of the money from. Moses stated he has respect for him and that he is the City's Attorney not the accountant nor on council.

Moses stated it is the council's job to determine how to generate revenue for the city. Moses also stated he is not a steward of the city's finances and that the accountant has given suggestions. Moses states the proper person would be the city accountant. Hayes stated this is the 1st round of SPLOST 7. Moses states without the numbers in front of him he doesn't know how much would be left. Kelly asked if we would have to vote on the amount owed. Moses stated he can not answer the questions on this night and to please email or text the questions. Kelly asked if the agreement states about road maintenance and Moses stated he does not know without seeing it. Hayes asked Ms. Jackson if she was taking the notes tonight and to add that she requested a copy of the intergovernmental agreement be sent to each council member.

4. City of Walthourville

**Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Realtor/Citizen Letter.** City Attorney, Mr. Luke R. Moses was requested by the Mayor and Council at the June 13th, 2023 meeting to draft a letter for Liberty County Realtors/Landlord. Moses asked that the letter be read out loud and apologized for grammatical errors and was the letter good. Mayor Pro Tem asked the ordinance number be put in. Major Hooker asked that the punitive action be added. Moses stated he would add the penalty and OCGA code then have council approve once sent. Motion pending revised letter and approval of the council by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and seconded by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 3-1 Motion Carried
Councilwoman Kelly did not vote.

IX. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Deputy Chief Kinney gave the stats. There have been 54 calls, 4 fire calls, 5 vehicle wrecks and 45 EMS calls. Mayor Baker asked Kinney about identifying hydrants. Kinney states they will need to get to the point where they can test as well as identify hydrants and that special equipment is needed to do that. Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes stated there are ditches that need blowing out in regards to debris and Kinney stated he would take a look. Mayor Baker stated with the painting and asked that their personal vehicles be moved until it's done to the city hall parking lot and across the street from City Hall. Hayes asked when will it be done and Kinney stated the air conditioning is done and the bay is 98% completed and the last part is the electricity and the door and should be done possibly by mid-August.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated on Aug 12 that Keep Liberty Beautiful will have a Recycle and Shred Fair in the City Hall parking lot from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Hayes states she will not be at the Back 2 school giveaway as she will be at a family reunion but that a citizen donated 10 packs of crayons and she donated 90 packs of crayons.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Hendry stated he did speak with Mr. Dave Martin and they are a bit behind because we are understaffed and there a small problem with the bulk truck.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette L. Kelly

Councilwoman Kelly stated that there are no issues and the water department was good. Mayor Baker stated there was a call on Saturday where a well got struck by lightning. Hayes stated that City Hall received a call about smelly water and that Patrick did go and see and take care of the lady.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Councilwoman Lovette was absent.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Major Hooker stated that Chief was at a conference. Hooker stated there were 17 reports generated, 7 arrests, 41 citations issued with 9 warnings. Hooker stated there will be a back pack giveaway on July 29th between 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, drive thru only. Hooker thanked everyone for donating and there will be 2 flock cameras installed around the city. Major Hooker stated that Officer Carter's surgery went well. Mayor Baker asked how the traffic would flow and Hooker stated they will be present to direct traffic. Hayes asked if there would be any signage. Hooker stated they will try to get signs and have officers present. Kelly asked if there was a new police officer to which Hooker stated no.

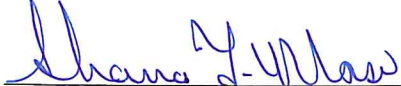
Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

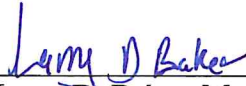
Mayor Baker stated come out on Saturday, July 29th for the backpack giveaway. Hayes stated she would like to see Hooker after the meeting for a citizen concern. Baker stated any questions regarding SPLOST 6 or 7, please email to the city attorney.

- X. **Adjournment:** At 7:00 PM the motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and seconded by Councilman Anderson.

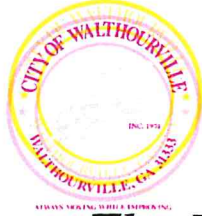
Minutes Submitted by Kara Jackson



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
August 8, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Deputy Fire Chief, Jamal Kinney
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | • July 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes | |

VII. Presentations:

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC **Mr. Jeff Ricketson**
PUD Amendment submitted by Liberty Properties and Holdings Company, LLC.
To modify the ratio of garden style and standard lots and add townhomes to the existing PUD. Property is located on Hardman Road and Hwy 84 further described as LCTM Parcel 041B-038.
Recommendation. For the Mayor and Council to approve the PUD Amendment.

2. City of Walthourville **Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes**
SPLOST 7 & City Finances.

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

Mayor Larry D. Baker

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. The Roll was called by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Pastor Allen Stewart of Victory Baptist Church in Walthourville, GA.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.
- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes: The motion to approve the July 25th, 2023, minutes was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: CW Lovette
- VII. Presentation: None
- VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC Ms. Mardee Sanchez
Ms. Sanchez presented a PUD (Planned Unit Development) Amendment submitted by Liberty Properties and Holdings Company, LLC. This amendment allows the owner to change the ratio of garden style and standard lots and add townhomes to the existing PUD. This property is located on Hardman Road and Highway 84 in Walthourville. The initial plan was to have 204 homes and the amendment will increase the number to 246. Previously the plan allocated for the following

Lots	Approved Plan	Revised Plan
Standard Lots (6000 sq. ft.)	91	61
Garden Lots (4500 sq. ft.)	113	68
Townhome Lots	N/A	117
Total	204	246

Public Hearing: At 6:08 a motion to enter into a Public Hearing for the PUD Amendment was made by Councilman Anderson and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

Councilwoman Lovette asked, "is this project still on hold due to water problems?" Ms. Sanchez stated the water problem had been fixed, engineers and EPD have conducted their studies and also additional studies and testing are required and would be done.

Long County Citizen Lloyd Busbee who resides in the Smiley Woods subdivision and is supplied water from the City of Walthourville stated, "on Monday August 7th, 2023, he woke up and had no water and had to go and purchase water from Parkers". He asked if this is what can be expected with the addition of the new subdivision. City Council Water Department Liaison Kelly stated the problem on August 7th had nothing to do with the city. The city's wells are operated by a SCADA System that is housed in Atlanta, Georgia. There was severe weather in Atlanta on August 7th with power outages, which resulted in a mechanical problem for the systems wells.

Attorney Moses stated, "the city is only responsible for water lines, we are not responsible for the system that operates our wells, and the outage was not caused by the city.

At 6:19 PM a motion to exit the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Anderson. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

The motion to approve the PUD Amendment was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilman Anderson. Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried. Councilmembers voting favorably: Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and Councilmen Hendry and Anderson. Councilmembers opposed: Councilwomen Kelly and Lovette.

2. City of Walthourville Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated at the July 25th Mayor and Council meeting she had requested the elected officials be provided with a copy of the SPLOST 7 IGA with Liberty County. And she had also emailed questions to Attorney Moses regarding the distribution of milling that was placed on the city's dirt roads. Mayor Pro Tem stated that the city's SPLOST 7 revenue was being withheld by Liberty County Board of Commissioners because of a debt the city owed to Taylor's Creek Construction for milling. The city received a bill from Liberty County of \$120,250.00. The city's SPLOST's 7 distribution is being withheld to defray the cost. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes posed questions: (1) Who authorized the milling to be placed on the city's roads? (2) Can Liberty County withhold the revenue because the Council did not authorize the distribution? (3) How is Taylor's Creek authorized to distribute the milling?

Attorney Moses stated he spoke with County Administrator Joey Brown regarding the milling. He stated Mr. Brown said the milling was an allowable cost/purchase under

the IGA and this council approved the IGA. Councilwoman Kelly said the Mayor and Council talked about getting milling, but a determination was never made. Mr. Moses said, the Mayor spoke with the County Commissioners for Walthourville about milling and they said it was available and they could get it paid for. Attorney Moses stated it was a misunderstanding between the County, City, Mayor and Commissioners. The commissioner could get it for the city and get it paid for because the commissioners initially informed Mr. Baker they could pay for the milling. He said the city's IGA with Liberty County allowed the county to give us the milling and withhold the payment.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she had read the entire document and she did not see anywhere in the agreement where it allowed for a purchase to be made without the city's consent. She stated she is a transparent person and believes everything should be done above board. She agrees the roads needed to be milled but she also knows the council should have been involved. She added that citizens are saying that councilmembers are the only persons benefitting from the milling because they (elected official) are getting their roads done. Also, why is Taylor's Creek Construction placing the milling on the roads? She questioned Taylor's Creek because she said in 2021 an invoice was submitted to the City for construction on Arnall. She needs to understand why Taylor's Creek is the only vendor. Attorney Moses stated, he is certain the county contracts Taylor Creek for their road services.

Councilman Anderson asked, "what elected official's roads were paved? Mayor Pro Tem stated Hardwick and Smith Road had milling placed on it. Councilman Anderson stated Hardwick was supposed to have been on the list to pave. Mayor Baker stated Mr. Turnipseed said Hardwick could not be paved due to the small size of the road. Councilman Anderson requested a copy of the minutes where milling was discussed. City Clerk, Shana T. Moss stated she would email the minutes to the Mayor and Council.

Councilwoman Lovette stated she listened to the questions that were presented by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and she also heard what Attorney Moses said and the only thing she has to say is," it's a costly misunderstanding." Councilwoman Kelly, asked shouldn't this have been presented to the Council? Attorney Moses stated yes, but it was an oversight. The Council asked Mayor Baker what are the other roads that need to be milled in the city. He replied," Hillary Lane, Julius Road, Doby Lane and Thompson Road." He reminded Council of the citizen Ms. Alma Wells that came before the Mayor and Council requesting that milling/paving/repairs be conducted on Hillary Lane. He asked council what did they want to do about her road? He further stated, "he knew this was a personal attack on him with them complaining about the milling."

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|
| IX. | City Reports | Councilmembers/Department Heads |
| | Fire Department | Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr. |
| | Captain Nicholas Maxwell gave the Fire Department report in the absence of Deputy Chief Jamal Kinney. He reported since the last meeting the department ran 33 calls. The renovations to the department are on-going and should be completed soon. The | |

bay is currently under construction for the ladder truck and is almost complete. Mayor Pro Tem asked, “was there an immediate threat to the ladder truck being outside and was the bay critically needed?” Captain Maxwell stated, NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) states that all fire vehicles must be housed inside; therefore, in his opinion it was a necessity. She asked wasn’t there about a week or two in between when the truck was delivered and when it was moved. He stated he knows there was some time, but he is unsure of exact dates.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Stated KLB will sponsor a Recycle/Shred it Fair on Saturday August 12, 2023, at City Hall. She further stated, “Mayor Baker, I don’t do personal attacks and when citizens ask her a question about city problems, she believes in addressing them and being transparent.” She also added, when one looks bad, they all look bad.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

No report. Mayor Baker stated some street signs are missing and the city needs to replace them because it could pose a danger to public safety by not being able to respond to the correct residence. He identified Selph Land and Kent Road signs as being missing.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Reported the wells had a mechanical problem due to the SCADA System. She stated, she wants to piggyback off Mayor Pro Tem Hayes, comment. “The Mayor and Council do not get together, they don’t communicate. She has twice requested the Mayor and Council have a planning session prior to the meeting and it has fallen on deaf ears.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Stated Parks and Recreation have been placed on the back burner, again. She further added she wanted to piggyback off Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and Councilwoman Kelly. She has attended three meetings that were publicized and on every occasion she and the female councilmembers were the only ones to show up. She stated that is unfortunate because she doesn’t mind meeting, but she has to drive way out to Walthourville and then no one shows up and nothing is accomplished.

Police Department


Mayor Larry D. Baker

Chief Reed reported since the last meeting there have been 27 incidents and 50 citations have been issued along with 12 warnings. Officer Carter is still recovering, and her recovery is going well. Sgt. Fulwood resigned, and a new officer is starting Friday. He added that the Back-to-School Event was a great success, over 300 book bags were distributed. He Thanked the vendors for an awesome event and the city employees and departments.


Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

- X. Executive Session: At 7:32 PM a motion to enter into Executive Session for personnel was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.
- XI. Adjournment: At 7:55 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second added by Councilman Hendry. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville
Special Called Meeting Agenda
August 15, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order: **Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.**
- II. Invocation **Appointee**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance: **In Unison**
- IV. Agenda Items:
 - 1. Financial Discussion**
- V. Adjournment **Councilmembers**

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Councilman Charlie L. Anderson Sr., Councilman Anderson called the meeting.

II. The following members were present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

III. The Invocation was given by Councilman James Hendry.

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. City Finances.

Councilman Anderson stated the city's finances were in trouble, the General Fund and maybe a forensic audit is needed and what does the city need to do to conduct one. Mayor Baker stated the Council could vote to conduct one. Councilwoman Lovette stated, if the city has financial problems how would the city pay for a forensic audit? Councilman Anderson said we are here to try to find a solution.

He stated, we will hear from the City Clerk. City Clerk Moss stated," on December 29th, 2022 when the Mayor and Council convened to adopt the 2023 Budget, the council stated the only way they would adopt the budget is if the \$335,000.00 in city/fire tax was removed. City CPA Mr. Matthew Caines conducted several budget meetings with the council to balance the budget. The city began the year (2023) in arrears without a balanced budget and in violation. Georgia Law O.C.G.A. 36-81-3 states that a city must have a balanced budget. With \$335,000.00 being removed the Mayor and Council did not defray expenses or find a different revenue stream.

The money the city began the year with for the General Fund was used for the city's operation. The General Fund is comprised of the Mayor and Council, Fire Department, Police Department, Road and Grounds and Sanitation. The revenue that the General Fund receives is minimal. The Police Department's Fines and Municipal Court revenue is deposited into the General Fund. The majority of the city's bills are channeled through the General Fund, "stated Ms. Moss." She referenced the city bills that were emailed to the elected officials.

Councilwoman Kelly stated, the Mayor and Council had been provided with a spreadsheet of the city's bills that were emailed. She suggested the city Cash in the city's Certificate of Deposit (CD). She stated the CD was worth \$ 522,675.00 and she

suggested cashing in \$270,000.00 for the General Funds Bills that are on the spreadsheet.

Councilwoman Kelly stated, the city should put money back into a different CD for whatever is left.

Mayor Pro Tem stated she just wants to be sure because once the CD is cashed in, there is no turning back and this worries her. She questioned if this was legal. She asked about the City Attorney and City CPA not being in attendance. City Clerk Moss stated they were sent the email along with the council.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes discussed ways to cut back for the city. She asked if this was a Budget Meeting or a Special Called Meeting. Councilwoman Lovette stated, "dollars + sense = Budget Meeting."

Councilman Anderson stated, "maybe another meeting is needed." Councilwoman Kelly, stated, "we never get anything accomplished by coming back for additional meetings."

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated, "she hates to see an employee not get paid nor does she want to see employees' hours reduced. She stated she is willing to forfeit her council salary for the employees. She also stated the Mayor's vehicle could be returned and that will aid in keeping the employees and defraying expenses." Councilman Anderson stated these topics would need to be discussed in a budget meeting. Mayor Pro Tem stated she felt this was appropriate because as Councilwoman Lovette referenced earlier, this is about dollars and cents.

Also, Councilwoman Kelly suggested the \$39,442.28 that the city owed the county for milling be paid. With this deficit being paid the city could receive the monthly SPLOST distribution instead of being in arrears and the balance being deducted.

City Clerk Moss informed the council that the current SPLOST expired on March 31st, 2023 and that SPLOST 7 went into effect on April 1st. The county began sending the SPLOST 7 Distribution around mid-May.

The motion to convert the City's CD into Cash for \$270,000.00 to be placed into the General Fund was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Hendry. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

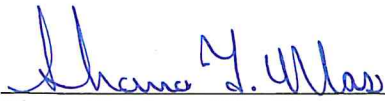
The motion to pay Liberty County (the bill from Taylor's Creek Construction for road milling) Board of Commissioners \$39,442.28 from the city's current SPLOST was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Anderson. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes referenced Item # 54(\$5,474.78) on the August Bills Spreadsheet that was prepared by Councilwoman Kelly. The item was the Liberty County-County Wide Workshop that is being held on September 14th & 15th in St. Simons, Georgia. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she would not be attending; she cannot consciously attend a retreat when the city is experiencing financial problems.

City Clerk, Shana T. Moss referenced Item # 52 (\$741.00) which was the Clerks Training. Ms. Moss stated she had received a scholarship from the Georgia Clerks Association to attend the Clerks Fall Training Conference in Athens, Georgia September 11th & 12th. Ms. Moss added that the conference cost and hotel accommodations were being paid for by the scholarship and she was not seeking mileage and per-diem. She further stated that if there wasn't any elections class she would not be attending; however, the city has an election this year and she wants to ensure she remains up to date on election information.

Councilwoman Kelly referenced Item # 53 (\$1,851.26) GMA Knox Institute. She stated she was awaiting confirmation from Aileen Thomas with GMA about her scholarship that will pay for her tuition for her classes which will be held September 26th-29th, 2023 at Jekyll Island, Georgia.

Adjournment: At 6:52 PM the motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was provided by Councilwoman Lovette: Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For Innovative Interior Designs

For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Debra Grant. The business will be located at 46 Stephanie Drive and Debra Grant is the property owner. The property is zoned R-8. The business will be designing interior of homes, organizing, etc.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove Innovative Interior Designs.

**3. City of Walthourville
Liberty County Fire Services IGA.**

Interim Fire Chief Nicholas Maxwell

**4. City of Walthourville
City Finances.**

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

**5. City of Walthourville
Realtor/Rental Letter**

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

None

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

VII. Presentation: **Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.**
Councilman Anderson thanked Mayor Baker for the opportunity to speak. Anderson wanted to address the last meeting and a question that was not answered. Anderson stated the Mayor thought it was directed towards him regarding the millage and no answer had been given. Anderson stated that the meeting was not professional and the viewers that watched and saw what happened thought that the council acted like a bunch of clowns. Anderson stated that nothing came out of the meeting, but tempers flaring and anger. Anderson stated he thought nothing should have been that way. Anderson stated he wondered why the Lord fashioned us the way he did with 2 ears to listen and 1 mouth to speak and that is to listen more than we speak. Anderson stated that in the meetings at church there must be 3 elements: Be ready, Be ready to speak, Be seated. Anderson stated City Attorney Luke Moses made a statement about misunderstanding with Liberty County Administrator, Mr. Joey Brown and there may have been a miscommunication. Anderson stated there was no communication between the Mayor and the Council. Anderson stated if there was communication maybe the issue could have been avoided. Anderson stated he never saw where the Deacons and the Stewards tell the pastor what to do. It's always the pastor telling the Deacons what to do. Orders don't go up, they come down. We should not be telling him what to do and that we need to be on one accord. Anderson thanked Mayor Baker again for the opportunity to speak and say they should be one team working together that they are elected officials to serve the city. Anderson stated they are not there to point fingers. Anderson stated he doesn't speak much but sometimes it is better to listen than talk.

VIII. Agenda Items:

IX. 1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For Lamora Rose Studio Beauty Salon

For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Kya Hamilton. Kya Hamilton was present. The business will be located at 4981 W Oglethorpe Hwy suite 6. The property is zoned B-2. The business will be a Full-service beauty salon with no chemicals. Mayor and Council had no questions. Councilwoman Kelly made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 5-0 Motion Carried

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. For Innovative Interior Designs

For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Business License Request for Debra Grant. The business will be located at 46 Stephanie Drive and Debra Grant is the property owner. Debra Grant was not present. The property is zoned R-8. The business will be designing interior of homes, organizing, etc. Mayor and Council had no questions. Councilman Hendry made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote:5-0: Motion Carried

3. City of Walthourville

Interim Chief Nicholas Maxwell

Liberty County Fire Services IGA. Interim Chief Maxwell thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak regarding the IGA and the sum of money that was not received based on fire protection that is provided for unincorporated Liberty County by the City of Walthourville. Interim Chief Maxwell states they have been in contact with Chief Brian Darby and they have been back and forth as to how to go about it.

The discussion had been previously discussed and tabled but the IGA is still unsigned, and COW will not be receiving the \$16,000 that is usually given annually. Interim Chief Maxwell recommends passing the fire fee and then they will be able to sign the IGA where there will be no money exchanged for the services. The outcome will be the fire district that has homes in it that is beyond Walthourville will still be covered and they will be subject to the fire fee. That area will still be serviced on behalf of Liberty County Fire Services but there will be no annual payment from Liberty County. He stated that the other side is that because the agreement that was proposed was one he recommends they not sign and it was agreement they did not want to make. The agreement was going to change from the \$16,000 annually to \$175 pay per call which would be a tremendous change. The burden of screening and billing per call would fall on COW. The agreement goes back to when the fire authority was still intact and that is when the agreement was made that Walthourville would cover those unincorporated areas. Maxwell recommends considering the fire fee. Attorney Moses asked how many calls were received last year to which Maxwell responded he was not sure but they usually run 500 - 800 calls annually. Moses how many were in unincorporated Liberty County. Maxwell stated that to date there have been 18 calls. Moses asked if the council approved the IGA. Maxwell stated that the IGA has been around before most of the council and had been approved annually for \$16,000. Moses asked if anyone knows the year of approval for the IGA. Councilwoman Kelly stated they approved it a couple of months ago but were informed that the paperwork never made it to Liberty County Fire Department and that is why the money never came. Moses asked if there was a deadline and Maxwell stated the previous year was not proposed. The IGA was not communicated to Mayor and council. The IGA was not submitted for signature or approval by the previous Fire Chief. It was presented as an option but it is not an option. Maxwell stated the previous IGA was not submitted and so they lost out on the \$16,000. The agreement presented this year was the \$175 per call. Council agreed to stay with the lump sum which was recommended but after communicating with Joey Brown they were presented with \$175 per call and it was either sign or they don't get paid. Maxwell stated there was a major miscommunication between the previous Interim Chief and Liberty County's Fire Chief. Moses stated they may need to have a further discussion with Joey Brown. Moses asked if an agreement was presented this year offering \$16,000. Kelly asked where did the previous chiefs receive the information to which Maxwell stated it was a verbal conversation in the previous Interim's chief's office. Kelly stated it was verbally brought to council and nothing was seen on paper. Moses asked if anyone has spoken to the Liberty County Fire chief to see if he remembers the conversation to which Maxwell stated he acknowledged it once on the phone. Councilwoman Lovette stated she was the chair of the fire authority when the IGA was established. Lovette stated that unless they changed it then it would remain intact and if COW is not entitled to any funds she has a serious problem with that. Lovette states she believes there is a clause. Moses states there may be a clause and he would need to see the agreement. Anderson stated that as long as they keep up the agreement they should be ok but dropping the ball and not getting it signed may nullify the agreement. Maxwell states that currently there is no IGA where COW is compensated. Moses stated that in the absence of an IGA he does not believe COW can respond to unincorporated calls in the county. Maxwell stated it was the establishment of the fire district by the fire authority. Kelly asked if COW Fire department does not respond then what to which Maxwell responded the next closest would be gumbranch and that is why COW has always responded. Moses stated he needs a copy of the last approved

IGA which may have been from 2021 and verify it before a new IGA is voted and signed on. Mayor Baker stated to let them get the information from city hall. Kelly asked to put the discussion on the agenda for the budget meeting. Lovette asked if they pass the fire fee now how would that impact the agreement with the county. Maxwell stated they would amend the agreement where there is no money exchanged like a mutual aid agreement. Lovette stated they are tax payers and if they don't have a fire fee then the county is not providing any fire service and that led to the IGA being created. Maxwell stated COW has it's own fire department and own established fire district which they are responsible for. The county is not responsible for providing fire service in that area even though residents pay county taxes. Kelly asked why do they pay county taxes for fire if they not gonna do nothing to which Maxwell responded there is not a fire fee paid to the county. Lovette stated they pay county taxes for fire services and they collect fire services funds from the taxpayers of Walthourville to which Maxwell responded it does not pay for fire coverage because if it did they would not compensate COW for running unincorporated areas. Moses stated they are now trying to change the amount to something COW does not like. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated when they make their decision they are talking about home owners without fire coverage and it's gonna affect their home insurance coverage. Maxwell states this does not affect homes in the city of Walthourville. Maxwell states those in unincorporated would default to Liberty county fire services. Maxwell stated that Liberty County would not have a choice in taking care of those homes. Hayes stated they need the original agreement. Maxwell stated the agreement was amended and COW is getting caught in the crossfire. Anderson stated Maxwell should be made interim chief officially. Moses and Baker stated he is currently the interim chief. Anderson stated they never agreed on that to which Moses stated that would be up to the Mayor and HR.

**4. City of Walthourville
City Finances**

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated that at the special called meeting they discussed city finances and it should be discussed at a different time so it will be discussed at the next budget meeting on September 18, 2023. Hayes asked Chief Reed about the grant writer and if she is under a month to month contract and Reed stated he is currently trying to find out that information. Lovette asked was the amount changed to which she received a response of \$500/month for \$6000 a year.

**5. City of Walthourville
Rental/Realtors Letter**

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Moses stated he has the typos changed and will get it out within the next day. Hayes asked if they will have it so it can be signed. Moses stated he thought they just requested the couple of changes and Hayes stated they haven't seen it. Moses stated he will email it the next day.

X. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Interim Chief Maxwell gave the stats. There have been 25 calls since the last council meeting to include 2 fire calls, 18 medic calls and 3 vehicle accidents calls and 2 miscellaneous fire calls. The ladder truck is in ISO compliance and back at the station

and hopefully back in full service within a day. There will be adjustments at no cost to the city. Anderson asked if the fire department was ready for the new truck to be in the building. Maxwell stated they are doing some cleaning and they will be doing a push in ceremony. Mayor Baker asked about the fire hydrants to which Maxwell stated they have the fire hydrant list and usually the pressure testing is handled by water department and public works. Inspections has to be done annually while pressure testing has to be done every 5 years. Baker stated regarding construction at the fire department that the truck is in the building. Lovette asked if when they do the testing of fire hydrants if there is damage done will that cause an effect on the water system. Maxwell stated if they can not turn an hydrant off which usually does not happen but there is also a shut off by the hydrant. Councilman Anderson had to leave after the report.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated the shred affair was a success. Hayes thanked the city hall team and the water guys for coming out and the volunteers. Shred truck will come back in January. They are looking to do a tire turn in event. They also just did a pollination event and help with the storm water runoff.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Hendry stated there are a couple of street signs missing and they will get the names and turn into city hall. Hendry also asked regarding milling what will they do. Mayor Baker stated they stated at the last meeting to hold off on the milling. Baker stated he made a promise to a citizen for their road and they were stopping after that. Lovette asked if the county has contacted Mayor Baker to which he stated yes. Lovette asked if they had milling to which he responded they do. Lovette stated her concern is Hillary Lane with the school buses. Kelly states they asked for a list of roads and Baker stated they can do the roads now. Hendry pointed out to Lovette the roads listed out on page 3 as Hillary Lane, Julius Road, Doby Lane and Thompson Road. Lovette asked about Griffin Road and Baker stated that would be a resurface road. Hendry stated the county has the contract for the milling. Lovette asked who funds would they come out of and Kelly stated COW T-SPLOST. Baker stated paved roads would cost more. Lovette said she would wait for a dollar amount. Kelly stated she would hold off until the SPLOST account is built back up. Hendry asked about Shaw Road being cut but they are short handed. Baker stated with it raining every other day and public works being short handed they can not currently cut Shaw Road.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette L. Kelly

Councilwoman Kelly stated that there are no issues and the water department was good except one smelly water call. The water has been good since the aerator was put in. Lovette asked where the water call came from to which Ms. Jackson stated she believed it was off Talmadge and it was one home. Mayor Baker stated there was a water outage the previously Thursday and that during emergencies it is hard to get the information out fast.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Councilwoman Lovette stated there is no money to make improvements at this time.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Chief Reed states 47 traffic stops, 30 citations, 8 warnings, 2 traffic accidents. Reed states they are seeing more with mental health crisis. Hooker stated when there are psychiatric events they have to intervene so they try to see if 1) EMS can take them to be checked out, 2) possible police escort to be checked out or 3) have family take them to be checked out. No crime so they can't violated and detained. They have been having sit down meetings with Liberty Co Gateway who is available from 9-5. The doctor can be brought to the scene and evaluated on the scene. They can also do on phone evaluations. So they now have another route to help citizens in crisis. Reed stated it is an aggravated offense for dumping of tires. Reed also stated it is hurricane season and hoping to get a list of seniors and disabled citizens by working with city hall. Reed also stated he is working on a quote for a generator. Baker asked if seniors and disabled citizens are being checked on to which Reed stated they do not have a list but they are working on it and would like to draft a letter. Lovette asked if there is an age limit to which Reed stated seniors are 62. Baker asked if there has been any contacts with the burned homes owners. Reed stated no information yet. Hayes asked who is the code enforcement officer to which Reed stated the police department handles code enforcement.

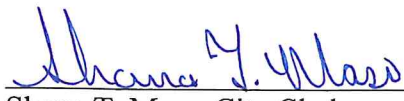
Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Mayor Baker stated covid is on the rise. Mayor Pro Tem stated there is a new strand and that you will not know you have it. Hayes states you do not lose taste or smell and that there will be free take home covid and std tests. The date will be forthcoming.

- XI. Adjournment: Motion was given by Councilwoman Kelly and seconded by Councilman Hendry. Adjournment was at 7:06pm

Minutes Submitted by Kara Jackson



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
September 12, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Interim Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell

Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | Ms. Kara Jackson |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: (August 22, 2023) | Councilmembers |
| VII. | Presentation: | Mr. Joey Brown
Liberty County Administrator |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | None |
| IX. | City Reports | Councilmembers / Department Heads |
| | Fire Department | Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr. |
| | Economic Development | Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes |
| | Public Works | Councilman James Hendry |
| | Water Department | Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly |
| | Parks and Recreation | Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette |
| | Police Department | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| | Office of the Mayor | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| X. | Executive Session | None |
| XI. | Adjournment | Councilmembers |

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2023

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was called by Kara Jackson with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr. Councilman James Hendry

Member Absent: Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly.

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Luke R. Moses was in attendance.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Pastor Alan Stewart of Victory Baptist Church.

- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve was made by Councilman James Hendry and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 3-0 Motion Carried.

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette entered the meeting at 6:03 PM after the vote was taken.

- VI. Adoption of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from August 22nd, 2023. The motion to approve was made by Councilman James Hendry and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.

Vote 3-1 Motion Carried.
Lovette Opposed.

- VII. Presentations:

Mr. Joey Brown Liberty County Administrator

Mr. Brown stated he was present to discuss fire protection and that he was there to address any questions that council may have. Brown stated that the last agreement was in 2021, and after speaking with Ms. Moss and City Attorney Luke Moses, and that they will honor that agreement and reimburse COW. Mr. Brown stated he needs invoices to proceed and that they never received a bill from COW. Mr. Brown stated the old agreement was a lump sum agreement. He stated the county wanted to turn it over to a per call agreement. Mr. Brown stated what was used as a guide was what FEMA used in times of disaster for a lifetime of equipment responses and that was \$175. Brown stated that even though that is the guide to use for COW taking care of that area for them he recognizes that money is spent to get equipment ready. Brown

stated he would like COW to be reimbursed \$200 instead of \$175 to recognize the maintenance needs ahead of time. COW can submit quarterly or monthly the numbers to the county and they can reimburse per call. Mr. Brown stated most calls last less than an hour. Mr. Brown stated there is currently not an agreement in place and would like to suggest a higher rate. Attorney Moses asked how many calls were responded to last year to which Interim Chief Maxwell stated he was unsure but there have been 13 responses to unincorporated Liberty County. Brown stated there were 32 calls last year for that same time. Councilman Anderson asked would the \$200 kick be retroactive for last year or now to which Brown responded with the new agreement and that they will reimburse for expenses for fire protection up till the lumpsum of last year. Mr. Brown stated he watched the previous council meeting and wanted to inform them that they would not be able to legally impose a fire fee in the unincorporated area because there would be no way to bill or collect it by COW. Attorney Moses asked about the fire fee in the unincorporated area to which Brown stated try to come up with a rate to charge businesses but other areas such as Savannah has currently been unsuccessful and that they would see a different rate on their ISO rating. Mr. Moses stated they had seen a different formula rate to which Interim Chief Maxwell stated that Mr. Brown is correct, and they would have to come up with numbers to figure the rate. Interim Chief Maxwell stated his proposal was to get out of the IGA where there is money exchanged on a per call basis and set a fire tax for the unincorporated areas, figure the rate of the unincorporated areas and discuss with the county. Brown stated it is not their intent to have COW cover the unincorporated areas as a long-term plan.

VIII. Agenda Items:

None

IX. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Interim Chief Maxwell gave the stats. There have been 46 calls, 38 medical calls, 4 motor vehicles with injuries. They have responded to Long county for a mutual aid for a vehicle fire and 3 fire miscellaneous calls. Interim Chief Maxwell stated they have installed 3 courtesy smoke alarms and attended 3 storm related calls. Interim Chief Maxwell stated COW was very fortunate during the storm and the fire department ran into a staffing issue and they are already preparing for the next storm. Mayor Baker asked if he had the senior roster to which Maxwell responded the list is still growing.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated on September 29, 2023 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM test kits will be available including std take home kits. They will also have Narcan for the police and fire department and it will be limited. Hayes also stated she asked for a healthcare coordinator to come and help those who qualify for SNAP Benefits to assist with applying.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Hendry stated Public Works is shorthanded and what they can not get to this week that maybe they can get to it next week. Mayor Baker stated he had a list of signs from the road department and Mr. Martin to get ordered which is needed for 911 purposes.

Water Department

Kara Jackson

Ms. Jackson stated there have been no calls for smelly water and no incidents and that everything has been running smoothly. Mayor Baker stated this time last year calls were coming in everyday about smelly water. Baker stated someone came to him about low water pressure and he directed her to city hall and thanked the water department for all they do.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Councilwoman Lovette stated there is no money to make improvements at this time.

Police Department

Corporal John Adams

Corporal Adams stated there have been 61 citations, 41 issued and 20 warnings. Chief Reed and Major Hooker are currently at training and Chief Reed is still getting quotes for a generator to pass on to the grant writer.

Office of the Mayor

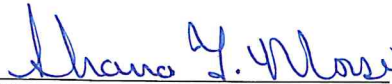
Mayor Larry D. Baker

Mayor Baker stated COVID is on the rise. Mayor Baker stated we will adhere to CDC and asked Interim Chief Maxwell is the maximum number allowed 16 to which Maxwell confirmed yes. Mayor Pro Tem stated there is a new covid test coming out and the shelf life for the previous tests has been extended. Mayor Pro Tem also stated there will be a new vaccine forthcoming and she does the vaccine clinics every 90 days and hopefully they will have the new vaccine for the clinic but if not back in time the clinic will be cancelled until they get the new vaccine. Mayor Baker stated please mindful of the IGA. Attorney Moses stated him, Ms. Moss and Mr. Brown have been in touch with each other and discussed formula that took in account wages, depreciation figures for re-imburement. Attorney Moses asked Interim Chief Maxwell if Ms. Moss discussed it with him to which Interim Chief Maxwell stated not yet. Attorney Moses asked if he could run some formulas and take it to the county to which Interim Chief Maxwell stated yes. Mayor Pro Tem stated budget meeting is September 18th and could it be ready to discuss by then to which Maxwell stated he should have it and Attorney Moses stated he would like to see it. Councilwoman Lovette asked how would Miller Park station affect COW and Interim Chief Maxwell stated it would not change what COW does or on the city limits of Walthourville. Councilwoman Lovette asked how it will impact what COW receives from the county and Interim Chief Maxwell stated the rate should not change. Councilman Anderson stated if it will decrease by 25% and will it decrease because of less calls. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked if they will still have to look at response time to which Interim Chief Maxwell responded yes. Councilwoman Lovette asked will it impact the ISO rating to which Interim Chief Maxwell responded it could help improve. He also added the commitment made by the Mayor and Council, COW is more self-sufficient that before and he is hoping to see an improvement in ISO. Councilman Anderson asked what can be done to improve ISO to which Interim Chief Maxwell responded, a substation could help because they take a hit because of the railroad tracks and hire full time firefighters. Interim Chief Maxwell stated also test hydrants and that equipment is tested annually and compliant with NFPA and ISO requirements. Councilwoman Lovette asked if they are taking a hit now because there is not a substation to which Maxwell responded no.


- X. Adjournment: Motion was given by Councilman Hendry and seconded by Councilwoman Lovette. Adjournment was at 6:35pm

Minutes Submitted by Kara Jackson

City Clerk, Shana T. Moss was attending City Clerk Conference in Athens, Georgia.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
September 26, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney

Interim Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell

Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|--|--|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: (September 12, 2023) | Councilmembers |
| VII. | Presentation: | Mr. Robert Dodd
Liberty County EMA Director |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | None |
| IX. | City Reports | Councilmembers / Department Heads |
| | Fire Department | Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr. |
| | Economic Development | Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes |
| | Public Works | Councilman James Hendry |
| | Water Department | Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly |
| | Parks and Recreation | Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette |
| | Police Department | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| | Office of the Mayor | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| X. | Executive Session | Attorney Luke R. Moses |
| XI. | Adjournment | Councilmembers |

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman James Hendry

Member Absent: Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly was absent, she was attending the Knox Leadership Training Institute at Jekyll Island, GA.

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

- III. The invocation was rendered by Mayor Larry D. Baker followed by a Moment of Silence in observance of City Employee, Ernest Sapp who passed away on September 18, 2023.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.
Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously
- VI. Adoption of City County Minutes: The motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.
Opposed: CW Lovette
- VII. Presentation: Liberty County EMA/Mr. Robert Dodd
Liberty County EMA Director, Mr. Robert Dodd and Assistant Director, Mr. Trip Duke presented a comprehensive presentation on Hurricane and Hurricane Preparedness. Mr. Duke stated this year's Hurricane Season is predicted by the World Meteorological Association as being busier than above normal. The Hurricane Season runs from June 1st-November 30th. He gave statistics that if a Category 2 Hurricane hits Liberty County 55% states they are not leaving with a population of 35,891. He stated for evacuation identifiers the county is broken into two zones. Zones A & B and Walthourville is in Zone B.

Mr. Duke also stated if a Category 2 or 3 hit Walthourville, the storm surge would be dangerous, and the city would be about 9 feet under water. Hampton Ridge Subdivision would be under water. He spoke about the evacuations and stated if a mandatory

evacuation is issued and the residents choose to stay when winds gets to 35 mph the Fire and Police Departments will not respond because their safety cannot be comprised.

Mr. Dodd stated citizens could call and be placed on the Hurricane Registry at the State Level. This registry will provide transportation for home-bound and incapacitated residents. The State will come to the citizens home and perform an assessment to determine the most reasonable accommodations in the event of a evacuation.

Residents in Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties who have functional or access needs, including children or adults with physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities who need assistance with activities of daily living including eating, taking medication, dressing, bathing, communicating, transferring from bed to chair and chair to bed. Anyone who lives in a nursing home, assisted living or personal care facility is not eligible for the registry and must follow their facility's emergency plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked if the State does an assessment and is deemed an ambulance is needed, will the State bring one? Mr. Dodd stated yes.

Councilwoman Lovette asked, "does the assessment has to be done prior?" Mr. Duke stated yes.

Mr. Dodd gave pamphlets to the City Clerk for distribution at City Hall for the residents.

Executive Session

Attorney Luke R. Moses had a prior engagement that he needed to attend. The Executive Session was before the Executive Session listed on the agenda

At 6:35 PM a motion to enter Executive Session for Litigation was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

At 7:00 PM the motion to Exit Executive Session was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was provided by Councilman Anderson.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

At 7:02 PM a motion to re-enter into Regular Session was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Anderson. The Mayor and Council gave authorization for the City Attorney to engage in negotiations for litigation involving a vehicle accident.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VIII. Agenda Items

None

IX. City Reports

Councilmembers/Department Heads

Fire Department Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
Interim Chief Nicolas Maxwell gave the department statistics. He stated the city's Pumper Tanker arrived on September 19, 2023. This vehicle will help the city's ISO rating tremendously.

Economic Development Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Reported on September 30th, 2023 she will be hosting an Clinic at the Fire Department. There will be free STD and HIV Test Kits available. Also, she is hoping to have the Flu vaccine and a representative will be onsite to assist residents in registering for SNAP Benefits.

Public Works Councilman James Hendry
No report

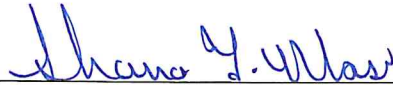
Water Department Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
No report. CW Kelly was absent due to class.

Parks and Recreation Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette
Had no park report but stated there are several grants available. She referenced a Housing Grant and a Food Desert Grant.

Police Department Mayor Larry D. Baker
Reported an Officer was assaulted on September 22nd, 2023, and had to go to the hospital. The suspect is in jail and bond is denied. Thus far, the department has issued 31 traffic citations.

Office of the Mayor Mayor Larry D. Baker
Stated to please keep the Sapp Family in prayer. The services for City Employee Ernest Sapp will be as follows: Visitation-September 29, 2023, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at Dorchester Funeral Home in Midway. The funeral will be held Saturday September 30, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Full Gospel Church in Hinesville. The City of Walthourville will be participating.

- X. Executive Session: See above.
- XI. Adjournment: At 7:13 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
October 10, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

AGENDA

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Nicolas Maxwell, Interim Fire Chief
Christopher Reed, Police Chief

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City Clerk |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes | Councilmembers |

September 26, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023 Executive Session Minutes

- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| VII. | Presentation(s) | None |
| 1. | City of Walthourville & Georgia Municipal Clerks Association | Mrs. Pam Helton
Ms. Shana Moss |
| | <i>Honoring the City's 1st City Clerk, Mrs. Molene Burke. Mrs. Burke was the City's First City Clerk when Governor Jimmy Carter chartered the city in 1974. Georgia Municipal Clerks Association and the City of Walthourville is paying homage to this Trailblazer.</i> | |
| 2. | Georgia Municipal Association | Mrs. Pam Helton |
| | <i>Financial Presentation. Mrs. Helton will inform the Mayor and Council of the financial options that are available to generate revenue for the City.</i> | |

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Public Hearing

UDO Amendments and Ordinance. UDO Amendments (regulating commercial truck parking in residential areas and bringing UDO into compliance with fire codes).

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve the UDO Amendment and Ordinance.

2. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Business License Request. The name of the Business is The Getaway and will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway. The owner is Ms. Selena Pabon and she will be operating a nail care service such as manicures, pedicures acrylic nails and a safe space for clients to get away. The property is zoned B-2 (General Commercial District).

Recommendation: For the Mayor and Council to approve the Business License Request.

3. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Public Hearing

Zoning Permit. For a Mobile Home to be located on Parcel-0151C-116 Wilder Road.

28x60 Double Wide. The property owner is Ms. Jacqueline Luke-Wright and the applicant is Mr. Adam Wilkinson, of Goose Creek, LLC on behalf of the property owner.

Recommendation: The property is zoned AR-1 which allow double-wide and vinyl skirting. The City of Walthourville Water and Sewer will be connected. For the Mayor and Council to approve the zoning permit.

4. City of Walthourville

Police Chief Christopher Reed

POWER DMX Presentation.

IX. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

X. Executive Session

None

XI. Adjournment

Councilmembers

When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues:

(1) Personnel, (2) Real Estate or (3) Litigation

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was taken by City Clerk, Shana T. Moss with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman James Hendry Councilwoman Bridgette Kely
Councilman Luciria L. Lovette

Member Absent: Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

- III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Mayor Larry D. Baker.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Adoption of City Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.
Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

- VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes:
- September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes: The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Hendry. Councilmembers Kelly and Lovette both opposed. Councilwoman Kelly stated she was opposing since she was absent from the meeting. Per GMA a member does not have to oppose because they were not present, the minutes can be read. The vote was 2-2 and Mayor Baker cast the tie breaker vote, making the vote 3-2.
Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried.
 - September 26, 2023 Executive Session Minutes. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Hendry. Councilmembers Kelly and Lovette both opposed. Councilwoman Kelly stated she was opposing since she was absent from the meeting. Per GMA a member does not have to oppose because they were not present, the minutes can be read. The vote was 2-2 and Mayor Baker cast the tie breaker vote, making the vote 3-2.
Vote: 3-2: Motion Carried.

VII. Presentation(s)

1. City of Walthourville and Georgia Municipal Clerks Association. Mrs. Pam Helton and City Clerk, Shana T. Moss.

The City of Walthourville and GMCA honored the city's 1st City Clerk, Mrs. Molene Burke. Mrs. Burke was appointed City Clerk in 1974 when the City was Chartered by Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter. Governor Carter appointed the historic all female, Mayor, Council and City Clerk in 1974 when it was unprecedented for the females to have roles in government. Clerks from around the 12th District came to pay homage to Mrs. Burke. In addition to Walthourville City Clerk, Shana T. Moss, she was joined by fellow Clerks: Mrs. Deborah Walker-Reed, City Clerk from St. Marys, and GMCA's Vice President and Georgia's City Clerk of the Year. Also, Mrs. Naomi Atkinson, City Clerk of Brunswick, Georgia, Mrs. Jenelle Gordon, City Clerk of Flemington, Georgia and Ms. Zenoia Smoak, City Clerk of Port Wentworth, Georgia.

Ms. Moss told Mrs. Burke the city was proud to honor her today, because of the great contributions she made to the city and she and the other City Clerks stand on her shoulders. Mrs. Burke was given pictures of the current 12th District Clerks and the original Female Mayor and Council from 1974. Mrs. Pam Helton stated she was honored to be in attendance and GMCA Vice President, City Clerk Deborah Walker-Reed, read a proclamation from GMCA President Mrs. Regina Russell lauding the accomplishments and contributions of Mrs. Burke. Mrs. Burke was given flowers and the framed proclamation. Mrs. Burke stated, "all of this for me," I can't believe you all did this." Mrs. Burke stated she and the Female Mayor and Council loved the City and they felt they could do a good job. They made the trip to Atlanta to speak with Governor Carter. He listened, he heard them and he acted by chartering the city. Mrs. Burke, thanked everyone and said, "please keep the city going."

2. Georgia Municipal Association Mrs. Pam Helton
GMA's Pam Helton said City Clerk Shana Moss had asked her "to review the financials of Walthourville so that we could look and kind of brainstorm about some revenue sources that the city could participate in. Mrs. Helton added that she reviewed the past two years, last year and this year, and what she found was pitiful. The city is operating and running in a deep deficit and action must be taken before it is too late.

Mrs. Helton stated, "last year was a bad year for you all. The city was over budgeted with all funds, almost \$700,000 and when you're over budget, that means you're taking money from your fund balance to balance your budget. This year, you're heading in the same direction. The City does not have the reserves to carry them over with fund balance as they have in the past. You all need to make some decisions about how you're going to move forward with making sure that you have the revenue to support your expenses."

The city has only one main source of revenue, which is the Water Fund. Mrs. Helton was concise in that; the water fund is not enough to keep the city going. Mayor Baker said the city recently completed upgrades to its water system, and that the city had stopped getting calls about “smelly and discolored water. Mrs. Helton said this poses a problem with the Water Fund sustaining the General Fund.

“When you have a system like Walthourville, especially with water/sewer, you don’t have the reserves to help to fund a replacement if anything were to happen to any of your lines,” Helton told city officials. “In this day and time, yes, there’s grants available for water/sewer infrastructure, but you have to have some kind of match, you have to have something that you can use.” At this point the city revenues are not supporting your expenditures.

Mrs. Helton further added, “the overspending could be due to several reasons,” “but I would suggest having a water sewer rate study performed by Georgia Rural Water Association, to make sure that the charges will pay for the service that you are providing to your citizens.” I suggest that the city evaluates every single charge big or small. She added that inflation has hit everyone and everything, just as the cost of eggs and milk and everything else has gone up in our personal households, the same has affected our cities. The cost of things in the city has increased; yet revenue has remained the same. Mrs. Helton elaborated that 10 years or even three years ago, the prices were nothing like they are today, she told the council. Expenses are rising but revenue remains stagnant, and you cannot operate like that. “You will be doing a disservice to your community by allowing this to continue. You’ve got to make some changes. Either you’re going to have to evaluate those revenue sources to make get some revenue or you’re going to have to look at your expenses and see what services you can do without.

City Attorney Moses said, Walthourville could lose its incorporation status if some services are eliminated. To remain incorporated a city must provide t a minimum of four services. Currently the City has:

- Fire and Police Protection and Safety
- Roads and Ground Maintenance
- Water
- Recreational facilities (Park)

Mrs. Helton said, time is of the essence. She informed the elected officials that they cannot sit back and not act. You all need to look at Walthourville, and you need to see what your finances are doing, and how you can make sure that you are protecting your citizens, and you are protecting your infrastructure, so that when the time comes, if you need something, you will have it. You need to start putting away for that water, sewer infrastructure.

Mrs. Helton recommended a millage rate of between 3 and 6. And she provided this scenario, that a property owner could pay a tax of \$3 to \$6 for every \$1,000 of a property’s 2023 assessed value

next year. The assessed value is usually 40 percent of whatever the county has said the property is worth for tax purposes.

For example, if you own a house valued for tax purposes at \$100,000, you are only taxed on \$40,000 — not the full \$100,000. (The tax valuation is not the same thing as the market price and is based on square footage and the overall condition of the house.) That 40 percent is the assessed value. Multiply that by the millage rate to figure out your property tax for the year. In this example for a rate of 1 mil, the property owner would pay \$1 on every \$1,000 of the assessed value, which is \$40,000. That would be \$40 per year for a one-mil tax. a property valued at \$40,000 for tax purposes would pay \$120 to \$240 per year.

In concluding her presentation Mrs. Helton said a three mil property tax would yield the city about \$160,000 per year, but she added the city needed closer to 6 mils.

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah Hayes asked, “what millage rate other cities Walthourville’s size had imposed?” Mrs. Helton stated that information could be obtained from the Department of Revenues’ website. *(Information was emailed to the Mayor and Council on October 11th 2023 by the City Clerk).*

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes expressed concern for the city’s residents, stating “I just want to make sure that the citizens are made aware of everything before all of this is put in place, we have Senior Citizens, we have Disabled people, we have Low Income, and everyone should be informed.”

Mrs. Helton stated the city could offer homestead exemptions, which are basically discounts, to people whose property is their primary residence. Other common exemptions are offered to senior citizens, disabled, and military veterans.

Councilwoman Luciria Luckey Lovette said, “A while back, we were trying to develop funds for the fire department and were advised that most fire departments have fundraisers.” “Volunteer or Full-Time,” asked Mrs. Helton. “Full-time”, stated Mayor Baker. “I don’t think any police departments or fire departments have fundraisers.

“Do we have time to get out of this crisis,” asked City Attorney Moses.” Yes, but you cannot sit and do nothing said Mrs. Helton. Mrs. Helton stated the Water Fund is projected to bring in \$1,554,000 in charges for service. Every cent of that was projected to be spent on operating and capital expenditures to keep the system going.

A property tax alone wouldn't be enough to fix the problem. But there are other categories where the city has yet to consider for bringing in tax revenue, such as public utility, timber, motor vehicle, mobile home, intangible, hotel/motel, and railroad equipment. Mrs. Helton stated the city could be getting revenue from the railroad track, but you must implement property taxes.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Public Hearing. UDO Amendments and Ordinances. UDO Amendments (regulating commercial truck parking in residential areas and bringing UDO into compliance with fire codes). Mr. Ricketson stated when he was present in May of this year for the adoption that Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked if the UDO could be amended. Tonight, he is here to ask that it be amended for commercial tractor trailers. He stated there has been tractor trailers parked in subdivisions and on larger cul-de-sacs. A semi is defined as more than 10,000 pounds.

At 6:43 PM a motion to enter a Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

Police Chief Chris Reed stated that his department has been enforcing this ordinance, they have contacted the drivers and began issuing citations. Councilwoman Kelly asked, "what are the consequences of the citations??" Attorney Moses stated, they can be fined \$1,000.

At 6:51 a motion to exit the Public Hearing was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

2. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Business License Request. The name of the Business is the Getaway and will be located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway. The owner is Ms. Selena Pabon and she will be operating a nail care service such as manicures, pedicures, acrylic nails and a safe space for clients to get away. This property is zoned B-2 (General Commercial District). Ms. Pabon stated she would be offering the same services as a nail shop. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

3. LCPC

Mr. Jeff Ricketson

Public Hearing for a Zoning Permit for a Mobile Home to be located on Parcel-0151C-116 on Wilder Road for a 28x60 Double Wide. The property owner is Ms. Jacqueline Luke-Wright and the applicant is Mr. Adam Wilkinson of Goose Creek, LLC. Mr. Ricketson stated this location will be connected to the city's water and sewer system. It does not have an address yet and he gave the Mayor and Council a description of where the mobile home will be located. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

4. City of Walthourville

Police Chief Christopher Reed

Presented a zoom presentation of DMX. This is technology that can be used for all city departments as well as the elected officials. If someone places a document into this software it can be shared and will remain in the portal for everyone to view at their pace. The price for the city would be in the range of \$7400-\$8200. Attorney Moses asked, "what is the smallest organization that DMX services?: She stated 70 in the City of South Fulton. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes inquired about how do they charge for storage? She replied, "there is unlimited storage." Councilman Kelly asked, "how long does it take for implementation? The answer was 60-90 days. Councilwoman Lovette asked if, "an employee leaves the organization can we secure our information." DMX stated, "absolutely, it can be done immediately. Attorney Moses asked GMA Member Services Director, Mrs. Pam Helton who had just conducted a Financial Presentation for the city if this was feasible for the city due to the cost. Mrs. Helton stated this should be a future item for the city once the financial instability subsides.

IX. Council Comments

Councilmembers

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Interim Chief Maxwell gave the report in the absence of Councilman Anderson. Reported the department responded to 30 calls. He reported on Wednesday October 18th, 2023 the Department will hold its Push-In Ceremony for the Pumper Tanker at 4:00 PM. The Push In Ceremony is a traditional ceremony to officially put the engine in service.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Reported the September 29th, 2023 COVID Clinic was very successful. The new COVID Vaccine is coming and will be available soon. October 28th, 2023 will be RIVERS ALIVE Clean Up and Volunteers are needed.

In November there will be another COVID Clean Up and she will be sponsoring a coat, shoe and glove give-a-way. Donations are accepted. There will be a Recycle Fair in November and January. Mayor Pro Tem, thanked Interim Chief Maxwell and The Fire Department for the use of the facility.

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Reported that Public Works are repairing potholes and collecting trash.

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Reported there have been no calls.

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Had no report she stated the city had no money.

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Police Chief Chris Reed gave the report. He stated the Officers were enforcing the tractor trailers parking illegally. He also encouraged citizens to have house checks at their homes if they are out of town. This form can be found online and also is available in person at the

Department. He stated the city's Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast will be held on Wednesday October 25th from 8:00 AM-11:00 AM at the Police Department. This event is being held in conjunction with Liberty County Sheriff's Department (absorbing the cost of this event). Also, he asked if the Mayor and Council had scheduled a date for Trick or Treat in Walthourville. The council tossed several options around but did not set a definitive date.

Office of the Mayor

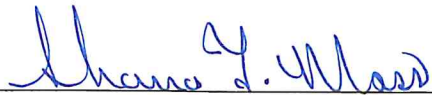
Mayor Larry D. Baker

Councilwoman Kelly asked about a meeting to discuss the millage rate and FY2024 Budget. She stated meetings are often talked about but no action is ever taken. The date was set for Monday October 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

X. Executive Session

None

XI. Adjournment: At 7 :39 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette. Vote:4-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
October 24, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

AMENDED AGENDA (as of 10-23-2023)

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Interim Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|--|------------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City of Walthourville |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes• October 16, 2023 Special Called Meeting Minutes | |
| VII. | Presentation:
Liberty County Sheriff's Department | Chief Deputy Alfonza Hagan |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>City of Walthourville and Liberty County Sheriff's Department MOU.</i> | |
| VIII. | Public Comments: Speaker will be given (3) three minutes. | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mrs. Shirley Thornton-City of Walthourville Budget.</i> | |

IX. Agenda Items:

1. Keep Liberty Beautiful (KLB)

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Recommendation. For the Mayor and Council to approve the American Recycle Proclamation designating November 15, 2023 as American Recycling Day in Walthourville.

**2. City of Walthourville
City Budget(s)/Financials**

Mayor and Council

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to discuss and resolve the City's Budget and Finances.

X. City Reports

Councilmembers / Department Heads

Fire Department

Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes

Public Works

Councilman James Hendry

Water Department

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly

Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Police Department

Mayor Larry D. Baker

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Larry D. Baker

XI. Executive Session

None

XII. Adjournment

Councilmembers

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.

II. Roll Call: The roll was called with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.	Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Bridgett Kelly	Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

III. The invocation was given by Mayor Larry D. Baker.

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Adoption of City Council Agenda, the motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Adoption of City Council Minutes:

- October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried. Lovette Opposed.

- October 16, 2023 Special Called Meeting Minutes, the motion to approve was made by Councilman Anderson and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried. Lovette Opposed.

VII. Presentation:

Liberty County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Alfonza Hagan
Addressed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Liberty County Sheriff's Department and the City of Walthourville. He stated the Sheriff's Department cannot take on the burden of the Police Department and if the Sheriff's Department assumed the city, it would cost \$964,000 annually. Hagan stated the council removed revenue from the budget for a fire fee that they had the CPA to build into the budget. He stated he wanted to come and present this information because he heard Public Safety was being cut and he wanted to inform the community of the cost. He further added that the county provides each city with some services, but they could not take on additional responsibilities. The Sheriff's Department provides K-9 Service, drug units

and detective bureaus that investigate felonies in the city. Chief Deputy Hagan stated it would cost \$200 hourly to take over police services. Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly, asked DC Hagan, “what does my county taxes pay for? Hagan replied, “when you have a municipality, you are responsible for law enforcement in that municipality. Councilwoman Lovette inquired about the services of the City of Walthourville versus Flemington? Chief Deputy Hagan stated Flemington is no comparison because Flemington pays the entire salary of the deputy and the car for their city. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated, she was surprised because she had not heard that Public Safety was a topic of discussion to be cut. She stated the council did talk about a fire fee, but she felt it wasn’t fair, it wasn’t transparent, and it wasn’t fair to pay.” Chief Deputy Hagan stated, whatever was done it has a lasting impact on where the city is today.

VIII. Public Comment:

Mrs. Shirley Thornton of Sabreena Circle stated she was a 29-year resident of Walthourville and she became concerned after Mayor Pro Tem Hayes informed her the city was \$700,00 in debt. She became further upset when she attended a personal meet and greet hosted by Mayor Baker. She began asking questions about taxes (millage) and she said the Mayor had her removed. She stated she did not vote for Mayor Baker. But, she wants to know, how this this happen? There are six people elected to represent the citizens. She further stated she has heard repeated comments about the CPA not being present and not giving information. She has heard questions asked to City Clerk Shana T. Moss and Ms. Moss is not the one who should be giving the answers. She stated she was concerned about people losing their homes due to not being able to pay property taxes.

IX. Agenda Items:

1. Keep Liberty Beautiful (KLB) Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Presented a Proclamation declaring November 15, 2023 as American Recycling Day
in the City of Walthourville.

2. City of Walthourville Mayor and Council
The Council spoke about the city’s financial status. The city began 2023 with an unbalanced budget hinged from \$300+ in revenue derived from an anticipated Fire Fee Tax. Councilwoman Kelly said, she was opposed for a fire fee because the citizens were not informed. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she wanted the citizens to have time to have input and ask questions. Councilwoman Lovette said the citizens deserved to be heard before any action was taken. She further stated that, “this is the reason she does not vote on a lot of stuff.”

Attorney Moses stated the Mayor and Council might want to think about researching a loan for the city. Councilwoman Lovette stated she was interested in the city conducting a Forensic Audit to see where the city’s money went. Attorney Moses stated

he wanted to reiterate that when GMA Member Services Director, Pam Helton was present, she stated she does not see how the city has been operating without property tax(es). Mrs. Helton stated the city could receive some funds if the city would impose a millage rate. Attorney Moses stated he is only trying to advise the council to set up some dates/times for citizens to be informed. “My understanding, based on my conversation with Mr. Caines is that we need a loan to bridge the gap between the recommendation he gave us, on the budget that the city council passed, and the revenue that he recommended at the time that should be implemented to fund that budget, which was a fire fee that was never implemented. He advised all of us at the time said, Attorney Moses. “Now we’re in this position because the fire fee wasn’t implemented. And my understanding is this loan would be a bridge. And we would still need the fire fee and would still need a property tax to pay back that loan and continue to fund the city.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she was not opposed to a loan if it would alleviate or buy time to impose property taxes. She stated the city could obtain the necessary information to see about securing a loan. However, she stated spending limits were imposed and some were not adhered to. She stated she too agreed for a Forensic Audit and the city need to have sessions for citizens to ask questions.

- The motion for the City of Walthourville to conduct a Forensic Audit was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was provided by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

(the council did not provide directions on who they wanted to conduct the audit).

- The motion to approve dates for Millage Rate Public Hearing Information ONLY was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes. The dates for the Public Hearing will be:
 - November 9th @ 6:00 PM at the Fire Department
 - November 16th @ 6:00 PM at the Fire Department.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

On October 25th, 2023 @ 4:27 PM City Clerk, Shana T. Moss emailed the Elected Officials that an additional date must be identified to remain in compliance with DOR. November 30th, 2023 was added. (The timeline for DOR will become a part of the minutes).

- The motion for FY 2024 Budget Hearing Dates was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was provided by Councilwoman Lovette with the following:
 - Budget Meeting, November 13th @ 6:00 PM at the Police Department
 - Budget Meeting, December 4th @ 6:00 PM at the Police Department
 - Budget Adoption, December 12th @ 6:00 PM at the Police Department

X.	City Reports	Councilmembers/Department Heads
	Fire Department	Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.

Interim Chief Nicholas Maxwell gave the statistics, during the past two weeks they have answered 22 calls. He stated the department conducted and passed its GBI Audit and they are still updating their Standards and Training. The Push-In Ceremony for the Pumper Tanker was a success, and the engine is in service. He stated the city still needed to discuss the Fire Protection with unincorporated Liberty.

Economic Development Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Reported that she will be conducting a Flu/COVID Clinic on November 17, 2023 from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM at the Fire Department.

Public Works Councilman James Hendry
Reported there were three trucks that were broken at Public Works. Most of them have been repaired.

Water Department Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Reported there was a minor problem at Johnnie Frasier Park on October 21st, 2023 with a water faucet. The Water Department repaired the problem quickly.

Parks and Recreation Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette
Reported there is a traveling ball team that frequents Johnnie Frasier, and the park needs some upgrades. The water fountain needs to be replaced, and more lighting is needed at the park. She is looking for grants.

Police Department Mayor Larry D. Baker
Police Chief Reed stated an officer is still out. Officer LaPeria Carter who was injured in December of 2022 is still out. He further reported the city has been affected with squatters. They have responded to 46 calls and there has been reported 2 allegations of rape. They responded to a criminal trespass call at Hillary Park. He stated the department is canvassing the neighborhoods for tractor trailers in subdivisions. Chief Reed stated they cannot be parked in neighborhoods. He presented a safety scenario involving school buses and the zero-tolerance law/rule for a school bus. He stated the department strictly enforces no passing in a school zone.

Office of the Mayor Mayor Larry D. Baker
Stated he is aware and has heard the comments from the citizens. He stated the Mayor does not vote in the city except in the event of a tie.

XI. Executive Session None

XII. Adjournment: At 7:48 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor and Council Meeting Special Called Meeting Minutes
Millage Rate/FY 2024 Budget
Monday October 16, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:13 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker. The meeting was late due to technical difficulties caused by the telescope.
- II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker
Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
Councilwoman Bridgettte Kelly

Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman James Hendry
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present, along with Interim Fire Chief Nicolas Maxwell and Police Chief Christopher Reed.

- III. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- IV. Agenda Item: Millage Rate and FY 2024 Budget.
- V. Councilwoman Lovette made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the FY2023 Budget. The second was added by Councilman Anderson. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.
- VI. Agenda Items:

Millage Rate and FY 2023 and 2024 Budgets.

The Mayor and Council were emailed the Millage Rate Guide for Georgia on October 11, 2023 by City Clerk, Shana T. Moss. Included in the packet for the meeting was the FY 2023 Budget, and the FY2024 Budget (58 pages) Worksheet. On October 12, 2023 the Mayor and Council were emailed YTD Budget for both the General and Water Funds.

Attorney Moses stated the Mayor and Council were given information from Mrs. Pam Helton with GMA at the October 10, 2023 meeting. To set a millage rate of 3 mills would generate \$ 160,000 and a millage rate of 4 mills would generate \$480,000 annually. He stated per the FY 2023 Budget was based on a Fire Fee to balance; the council removed the fire fee, leaving an unbalanced budget and no expenses were cut.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she heard the presentation by Mrs. Helton and she had conducted her own research. She isn't opposed to setting a millage, but the citizens need to be able to attend meetings and discussions. She suggested the meetings be held at the Fire Department. She asked Interim Chief Maxwell if they could accommodate a crowd. He replied, "yes, they can open all 3 bays and place chairs."

Councilwoman Kelly stated she felt this was being rushed and the Mayor/Council/ and Citizens needed to be in meetings about the millage and how it would affect them.

Councilman Anderson stated the citizens needed to know how paying both county and city taxes would affect them.

Councilwoman Lovette also stated the citizens should be afforded an opportunity to discuss and learn the process.

The Council requested reviewing the FY2023 Budget to make deductions. City Clerk Moss stated in July 2023 the Mayor and Council convened to make cuts/deductions and no action was taken.

Councilwomen Kelly and Lovette both referenced the Park Revenue of only \$960.00. In July of 2021 the Council voted to change the cost of renting the park. For example, the park is rented for a daily rate of \$120.00. If the park is left in the condition, it was found the citizen is returned \$60.00. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes inquired about Item # 6 Cable Franchise Tax for \$16,000. She stated Mrs. Pam Helton (GMA) said the city should be receiving money when any cable vendor comes into the city. Attorney Moses stated he would check into it.

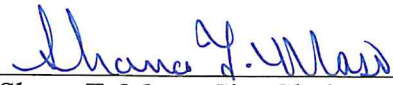
Item # 16, Mutual Aid Fire Department. This is from Liberty County that is paid from the Liberty County Board of Commissioners to the city for Fire Department for unincorporated Liberty County. ***The city received the \$16,000 check on October 18th, 2023 and the Mayor and Council were emailed.***

Also Item # 25 Miscellaneous Revenue from the United States Post Office. Councilwoman Kelly was spearheading this initiative to increase the rent. City Clerk Moss asked Councilwoman Kelly, what did the Postal Service say? She said the Postal Service (Allenhurst Postmaster) stated an email would have to be sent.

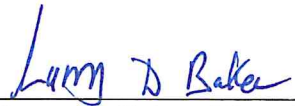
The Council reviewed the FY 2023 Budget and could not decide or make a resolution. They stated they needed recommendations and up to date financials from CPA, Mr. Matthew Caines. Attorney Moses stated that Mr. Caines, Ms. Moss and himself had talked in-depth and the best possible answer would be to have Mr. Caines come to the October 24, 2023 Mayor and Council Meeting. Mr. Caines could answer any questions and would provide any documents the elected officials needed. Ms. Moss urged the Mayor and Council to please email Mr. Caines any questions so he would have any opportunity to prepare comprehensive information.

At 7:43 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Hendry and the second was added by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor



**City of Walthourville Mayor and Council Meeting
November 14, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department**

AMENDED AGENDA (as of 11-13-2023 @ 3:21 PM)

The Honorable Mayor Larry D. Baker, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes The Honorable Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The Honorable James Hendry The Honorable Bridgette Kelly
The Honorable Luciria L. Lovette

Luke R. Moses, City Attorney
Interim Fire Chief, Nicolas Maxwell
Police Chief, Christopher Reed

- | | | |
|-------|--|------------------------------|
| I. | Meeting Called to Order: | Mayor Larry D. Baker |
| II. | Roll Call: | City of Walthourville |
| III. | Invocation | Appointee |
| IV. | Pledge of Allegiance: | In Unison |
| V. | Adoption of City Council Agenda: | Councilmembers |
| VI. | Adoption of City Council Minutes: | Councilmembers |
| | • October 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes | |
| VII. | Presentation: | City of Walthourville |
| VIII. | Agenda Items: | |

1. LCPC **Ms. Lori Parks**
Business License Request. For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a request for Bulldog Carpet, located at 256 Griffin Road. The owner is Mr. Blake Gomez and Bulldog Carpet Cleaners specializes in steam cleaning of carpet, tile and furniture. The property is zoned AR-1 (Agricultural Residential Districts).
Recommendation: LCPC recommends approval.

2. LCPC **Ms. Lori Parks**
Business License Request. For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a request for Smiles Locs and Styles. Located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway, Suite 113. The owner is Ms. TaJuana Rhodes. Property is zoned B-2 (General Commercial).
Recommendation: LCPC recommends approval.

3. LCPC

Ms. Mardee Sanchez

Preliminary Plat. Shaw Road Townhomes – A request by JC Vision and Associates for preliminary plat approval for 10 townhome lots on Shaw Road.

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to approve the plat.

4. City of Walthourville

Interim Chief Nicholas Maxwell

Liberty County Fire Services MOU. For Mayor and Council to approve or disapprove the MOU for unincorporated Liberty County. LCBOC is proposing \$16,500 annually, the City of Walthourville is proposing \$30,000 annually due to increased call volume, and the city’s resources (engines and certified firefighters).

Recommendation: For Mayor and Council to modify and approve the \$30, 000 Annual Compensation instead of the proposed \$16, 000 to continue serving unincorporated Liberty County.

5. City of Walthourville

Interim Chief Nicholas Maxwell

Walthourville Fire Department. For the Mayor and Council to approve outerwear (hoodies) for the Firefighters in the amount of \$1,000 by Sheffields in Jesup.

Recommendation: Approval.

6. City of Walthourville

Police Chief Christopher Reed

Liberty County Sheriff’s Department MOU. For Mayor and Council to approve or disapprove the MOU for Liberty County Sheriff’s Department in conjunction with the City of Walthourville.

Recommendation: Approval.

7. City of Walthourville

Mr. Matthew Caines

Proposed Fire Tax Fee. For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Fire Tax Fee for homes and businesses.

Recommendation: Approval to implement.

8. City of Walthourville

Mr. Matthew Caines

Proposed Millage Rate. For Mayor and Council to approve/disapprove a Millage Rate.

Recommendation: Approval to implement.

IX.

City Reports

- Fire Department
- Economic Development
- Public Works
- Water Department
- Parks and Recreation
- Police Department
- Office of the Mayor

Councilmembers / Department Heads

- Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.**
- Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes**
- Councilman James Hendry**
- Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly**
- Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette**
- Mayor Larry D. Baker**
- Mayor Larry D. Baker**

X.

Executive Session

None

XI.

Adjournment

Councilmembers

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Larry D. Baker.

II. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk with the following members present:

Mayor Larry D. Baker	Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Councilman James Hendry	Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette	

Member Absent: Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
The attendance of Council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

III. The invocation was given by Mayor Larry D. Baker.

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Approval of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

VI. Adoption of City Council Meeting Minutes for October 24, 2023.

The motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 24th, 2023 was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 3-1: Motion Carried.

Members voting favorably: Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and Councilmembers Hendry and Kelly.

Member opposing: Councilwoman Lovette.

VII. Presentation

City of Walthourville

City CPA, Mr. Matthew Caines presented the city's financials to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Caines stated the meeting on October 24th that he was requested to attend he apologized for not being in attendance. He was dealing with a family crisis; his wife had a double mastectomy that day. He stated the city's finances were dire. Last December the council approved an unbalanced budget with a \$350,000 deficit.

The city's operating expenses are exceeding the revenue. The most expenses as with any budget are salaries and public safety. He stated the city's bills have kept in alignment with the inflation rate that the county is experiencing. The city's Property/Liability insurance has increased, health insurance premiums have increased

also. The city has entertained setting a millage rate, he stated he would have the projected information on how much revenue the city might need at the November 16, 2023 Millage Rate Informational Meeting. FY 2024 Budget Meetings were mentioned, and Councilwoman Kelly requested that Mr. Caines be present for all meetings. The Mayor and Council will generate a schedule and it will be disseminated to him.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. LCPC Mr. Jeff Ricketson
Business License Request for Bulldog Carpet Cleaners, located at 256 Griffin Road. The owner is Mr. Blake Gomez and he will provide steam cleaning of carpet, tile and furniture. There will be no commercial equipment and no customers to the residence. This will be a mobile business. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

2. LCPC Mr. Jeff Ricketson
Business License Request for Smiles Locs and Styles, located at 4981 West Oglethorpe Highway, Suite 13. The owner is Ms. Tajuana Rhodes. For Smiles, Locs and Styles will be providing natural hair care services of locs. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was provided by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

3. LCPC Mr. Jeff Ricketson and Mr. Trent Long
Presented a preliminary plat for Developer JC Vision and Associates for Shaw Road Townhouses. There will be 10 lots at 1.67 acres. The townhouse will range in size from 2,000 to 2,700 square feet. There will be a 35 feet setback along Shaw Road. The water system will be private. Mayor Baker inquired if the townhouses will have sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Mr. Long stated they would. This development will have a Homeowners Association and they will take care of any street lights. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Hendry.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

4. City of Walthourville Interim Chief Nicolas Maxwell
Presented an Intergovernmental Agreement between Liberty County and the City of Walthourville for the unincorporated area of Liberty County. Interim Chief Maxwell stated the city was still operating without a signed agreement for 2023-2024.. He stated the county sent an agreement to pay the city \$16,500 annually instead of \$12,000. The Interim Chief stated he felt that was not sufficient due to the city's new fleet and all Certified Firefighters. The city has three new engines to take into consideration. Interim Chief Maxwell stated he suggested the city start the process with no less than \$30,000 annually.

City Clerk, Shana T. Moss stated she had discussed the agreement with GMA because she agreed with Interim Chief Maxwell that \$16,500 was not sufficient to cover the cost of the city's expenses to go to unincorporated Liberty County (Riceboro) area.

Most times the city's pumper tanker would have to go to that area, the pumper tanker is the city's largest Fire Vehicle with two reservoirs full of water. The vehicle requires 4 firefighters and the city's insurance as well as gasoline cost should be considered. Ms. Moss stated she wanted to start at \$50,000 with the cost, but she wanted to be practical.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated she felt the city needed to be better compensated for providing services to Liberty County. She stated the city had to protect itself as well as providing service to our neighbors. Councilwoman Kelly stated \$16,500 was no money for all that we were providing. She asked Interim Chief Maxwell about the number of calls the city ran last year. He stated we ran 68. Currently, we are close to that number for this year with the potential to increase the call volume. Councilwoman Kelly made the motion for the city to negotiate \$50,000 for the annual compensation for Liberty County. The second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

5. City of Walthourville Interim Chief Nicolas Maxwell
Request to purchase 40 hoodies for the cold weather for the City of Walthourville's Firefighters from Sheffields in Jesup, Georgia. Interim Chief Maxwell stated the weather is beginning to get colder and the firefighters need weather appropriate garments. The motion to approve \$1,000 for 40 hoodies was approved by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and the second was provided by Councilwoman Lovette.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

6. City of Walthourville Chief Christopher Reed
Presented an MOU between Liberty County Sheriff's Department and the City of Walthourville's Police Department. He stated this MOU is necessary for the interworking of both departments. The MOU allows for Liberty County to provide protection and aid to the City of Walthourville. In addition to providing protection, the MOU allows for Liberty County Sheriff's Department to provide detective service to the city as well as the Sheriff's Department Canine Team. This agreement can be terminated by either party. The Sheriff's Office will not bill the COW until the fourth day of providing total service.

IX. Council Reports Councilmembers and Department Heads

Fire Department Councilman Charlie L. Anderson, Sr.
Councilman Anderson was absent and Interim Chief Maxwell gave the report. He stated the department had answered 10 calls and they were continuing training and preparing their 2024 Budget.

Economic Development Mayor Pro Tem Sarah B. Hayes
Reported on November 17, 2023 she would be holding a COVID and Flu Clinic at the Fire Department from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. She stated for uninsured citizens the Flu Shot would be free. She stated the KLB Cleanup for the city will be December 9, 2023 and

she is asking for volunteers. Also, on November 18, 2023 KLB will be holding a Tire Round Up at the Liberty County Complex in Midway, Georgia.

Public Works Councilman James Hendry
Had no report.

Water Department Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly
Reported the Water Department is doing well. She has received no complaints.

Parks and Recreation Councilwoman Luciria L. Lovette
Reported the park needs some upgraded equipment, but she has no money to make those upgrades.

Police Department Mayor Larry D. Baker
Police Chief Reed gave the report. He stated the city has had some problems with stray dogs, a child was bit by a pit bull. Animal Control will only come out if there is imminent danger such as a dog bite. Attorney Moses stated there is a vicious dog ordinance and if the dog bite someone the owner can be cited and the court can order the dog be put to death. Chief Reed also stated Tractor Trailers are posing problem, they are parking in subdivisions and in unauthorized spaces. He stated the department has conducted 92 traffic stops, issued 13 warnings. He stated the City's Chaplain, Mr. McKnight has been sick. Chief Reed also warned everyone to be mindful of squatters. These people are very difficult to have removed from your premises.

Office of the Mayor Mayor Larry D. Baker
Stated the city was still having millage meetings for the citizens. Councilwoman Kelly inquired about the meetings for the FY 2024 Budget. City Clerk, Shana T. Moss reminded the Mayor and Council to be mindful the city must hold Public Hearings (Georgia Law mandated) for the city's budget. After a lengthy discussion of dates and times from the members of the council the following dates and times were established. All meetings will take place at the Walthourville Police Department.

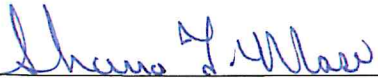
December 4, 2023 Budget Meeting	6:00 PM-8:00 PM
December 11, 2023 Budget Meeting	6:00 PM-8:00 PM
December 12, 2023 Public Hearing 1	5:00 PM-5:45 PM
December 19, 2023 Public Hearing II	5:00 PM-5:45 PM
December 20, 2023 FY 2024 Budget Adoption	5:00 PM-5:30 PM

These dates will be sent to the Coastal Courier and posted on the city's social media Page as well as the website.

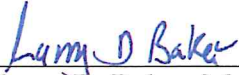
X. Executive Session None

XI. Adjournment: At 8:01 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and second was added by Councilwoman Lovette. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

Immediately after Mayor Baker hit the gavel and declared the meeting adjourned, citizen Carla Bell asked to speak. Mayor Baker asked if he could speak with her individually and she stated no. She wanted to speak about Griffin Road and asked everyone to close their eyes and visualize. Attorney Moses stated the Mayor and Council were conducting business in violation because the meeting had been declared adjourned. Mrs. Bell was informed to contact City Hall to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Mrs. Bell contacted City Hall on November 15th and was approved. On December 6th, she cancelled being on the December 12th agenda via email on December 6th 2023.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Larry D. Baker, Mayor