

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes.

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

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Councilman Mitchell Boston
Councilman Patrick Underwood	Councilwoman Bridgtte Kelly
Councilman Robert Dodd	

Member Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette.

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

III. Invocation was given by Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Adoption of Meeting Agenda, the motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Dodd. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

VI. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion to approve the April 9, 2023 meetings was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

VII. Presentation:

I. Liberty County Solid Waste Ms. Lori Wunderlich
Ms. Wunderlich stated she was asked by Mayor Hayes to make a presentation about the Solid Waste process and collection that Liberty County has adopted. She stated that Liberty County does not collect debris that is left by contractors, they must obtain a commercial dumpster. She added that the collection of debris is if it is a huge pile of leaves the driver will pick up 3 scoops (that is the maximum) and will move on to the next resident and each week they will collect 3 scoops until the debris is gone. Mayor Hayes stated the City of Walthourville request that the citizens bag their leaves, and Ms. Wunderlich said Liberty County does not require bagged leaves.

Ms. Wunderlich added, Liberty County does have convenience stations for the unincorporated areas of the county and Walthourville citizens cannot utilize this station. Councilwoman Kelly asked, "aren't we charged by the ton?" Mrs. Wunderlich replied, "yes, the city is charged \$48.55 a ton and for 13 days the city produced 5 tons. Mayor Hayes stated," Walthourville experiences problems with citizens being evicted and moving out and leaving lots of debris for the city to collect, what is an alternative? Ms. Wunderlich stated in Liberty County the tenants can rent a dumpster for \$97.55 a day and if sits idle for more than 2 weeks, the city will pull it.

Ms. Wunderlich further added that the county's landfill cost is expensive because they (Liberty) have to take the debris from Liberty to Jesup at a cost of \$15.80 per person and Walthourville collects trash for rough 1500 citizens. The ABS Waste Representative, Mr. Charles Stewart was present, and he was asked about their collection, he stated that ABC waste does not collect bulk trash. Liberty County does not

collect, tires, concrete, gasoline or oil. The Mayor and Council took no action, and this topic will be addressed at their workshop.

2. Keep Liberty Beautiful

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Presented the Keep Liberty Beautiful Proclamation designating April 27th as the Great American Cleanup Day in the City of Walthourville. Mayor Hayes asked for volunteers and that everyone meets at City Hall at 9:00 AM. The motion to approve the Proclamation was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. GMA-GIRMA (Georgia Interlock Risk Management Agency)

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Presented the City's Property and Liability Renewal for 2024-2025. The city's insurance policy is effective May 1st of the current year through April 30th of the following year. The renewal that was presented was for May 1st, 2024 through April 30th, 2025. The rate for the 2024-2025 year is \$127,847.00 resulting in a \$17,455 increase from the 2023-2024 premium of \$110,395.00. The increase is due to the additional equipment and vehicles that were added.

Attorney Luke R. Moses stated he was concerned about the uninsured motorist clause and he wanted to advise the city to see if they could add \$100,000.000 coverage. The insurance renewal would be effective before the Mayor and Council convene again and the city did not want to be without insurance. Councilwoman Kelly stated she would like the city to seek additional quotes and see if a cheaper company could be obtained. Councilman Boston joined the sentiments of Councilwoman Kelly and stated he too would like to see additional quotes. City Clerk Moss stated GIRMA has been the most economical because their specialty is Municipal Government, and they are the premier agency. Attorney Moses and Mayor Hayes both said GIRMA is the best city insurance. Ms. Moss also stated the city is seven days into the city's current policy expiring and she would like to obtain input from the council on what companies they would like City Hall to obtain quotes from. She added the insurance process starts in December but due to the change in leadership the insurance renewal process was started in January when the new Mayor and Council began their terms. Chief Reed (Police Department), Chief Maxwell (Fire Department) and Public Works (Councilman Boston) participated in the process, obtaining, and submitting information for their various departments.

To address the problem of the city not having coverage due to the time (April 23) and the expiration (April 30th) and the Mayor and Council not convening and not having to call a Special Meeting Councilman Dodd made the motion to approve the renewal, adding the uninsured motorist coverage for \$1 million dollars if the premium does not exceed \$135,000.00 and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 2-2

Opposing the vote were Councilman Boston and Councilwoman Kelly.

The tiebreaker vote was cast by Mayor Hayes voting in favor of the renewal premium. The final vote was

Vote: 3-2 (Motion Carried). Approved.

The annual coverage for the city with the added \$1 million uninsured motorists will be \$130,727.00. The premium amount was given after the meeting and emailed to the Mayor and Council. Travelers Insurance was contacted for a quote, and due to the short time frame, they stated they would be unable to give a quote because they would have to physically come onsite and inspect the property and vehicles.

2. Sanitation Bids.

Councilman Mitchell Boston

Stated he presented the Mayor and Council with a Request for Proposal to bid the city's Sanitation Service out to a private company. Councilman Boston added that he is solely protecting the city and the city's

Sanitation is costly. Councilman Boston stated thus far the city's Solid Waste Bill with Liberty County is \$64,511.40 and within a few days the new bill will be generated.

Councilman Dodd asked about the IGA with Allenhurst because the City of Walthourville provides Sanitation Service, and what will happen to them? Councilman Boston stated he attended a Council Meeting for Allenhurst and he advised them of the potential that Sanitation could be bidded out and he said they (Allenhurst) were on board. Attorney Moses stated he (Walthourville) would need to review the city's IGA with Allenhurst to see the particulars of the agreement. The motion to vote to advertise the bid was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Boston.

Vote: 2-2: Motion resulted in a tie.

Councilmen Dodd and Underwood stated they needed more additional information on Allenhurst before they could vote. Mayor Hayes had to cast the tiebreaker vote. She voted no, due to needing Allenhurst information on the subject.

Final Vote: 2-3: Motion Denied.

Voting in favor of advertising the bid were Councilmembers Boston and Kelly.

Voting in opposition of advertising the bid was Mayor Hayes and Councilmembers Underwood and Dodd.

IX. Department Comments

City of Walthourville

1. Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

In the absence of Mr. Golphin, the report was given by Ms. Moss. She reported the Water Department installed meters at some of the new developments that are in the city. Water samples are collected daily and the department is doing well.

2. Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported since the April 9th meeting the department has answered 24 calls. The department conducted a two-day extraction drill and they are preparing for some interagency training with the other departments in Liberty County.

3. Police Department

Chief Christophe Reed

Stated he wanted to inform the administrative office hours for the Police Department are from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. He also advised the citizens and community to be proactive and that means if they see something to say something, and that they are not being snitch. Chief Reed further added that we are only as good as the community we serve. The Department will be sponsoring Gang Training, and the officers will have Firearm Qualifications at the end of this month.

He also addressed the speed limit on Shaw Road. The Speed Limit is 35 miles per hour. This was enacted in September of 2022, the speed limit was reduced from 45-35 and there are 6-8 signs on Shaw Road illustrating the speed limit. Since the last meeting on April 9th, the department has generated 26 reports.

X. Elected Officials' Comments

1. Councilman Mitchell Boston, stated he will continue to say, "the city needs to get out of the Sanitation Business due to the cost."

2. Councilman Patrick Underwood reported the city will have a Movie Night at Johnnie Frasier Park on July 4, 2024 beginning at 8:00 PM. The Lion King will be shown. He also inquired about the Spray Truck for mosquitos. Mayor Hayes added that the county sprays Walthourville, also. The city has sprayed before; however, the spray is very costly.

3. Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly, stated she had no report.
4. Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette was absent.
5. Councilman Robert Dodd stated Hurricane Season is approaching and Liberty County EMA will be conducting a presentation at a future council meeting.

XI. Citizens Comments (3 Minutes)

1. Pastor Ben Beasley, Pastor of Allenhurst Presbyterian Church commented on bagging the leaves. He stated he was unaware of the policy and some citizens are now burning the leaves and this poses harm. Some citizens are elderly and cannot bag their leaves. Councilman Boston stated he feels the leaves should not be bagged and it is unfair to the citizens. Mayor Hayes stated the bagged leaves policy was enacted by the previous Mayor and Council and she is aware the city cannot please everyone, but they have to do what is in the best interest of the city both financially and economically.

2. Mr. Hakeem Clearly, stated he lives on Arnall Road (dirt roadside). He stated the road is impassable when it rains, and it floods. There are no gutters and no ditch for the water to run off into. He stated he was told the developer Dryden Enterprises would be paving the road. He has resided there for about two years and have had to endure the road being in this condition.

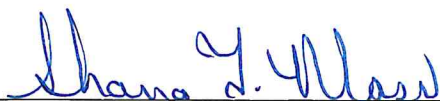
3. Mrs. Cynthia Crocker stated the speed limit on Talmadge Road and how fast the vehicles speed. She states there are frequent accidents on Talmadge and could the speed limit be lowered to 35. She saw people racing and she watched the city's Sanitation Team be in harm's way due to the speeders. Councilman Underwood stated he agrees with her, but Talmadge is a State Road and is controlled by DOT. Mayor Hayes stated she will reach out to DOT.

4. Mr. Clinton Cox stated he came to the meeting because he was confused about the cities. He stated he lives in Allenhurst, and he didn't know when the Mayor and Council would meet. Councilwoman Nicole Reed from Allenhurst was attending the meeting and she introduced herself and stated that the Mayor and Council of Allenhurst meet on the First Monday of each month at 6:00 at Allenhurst City Hall.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Hayes thanked everyone for coming out and being involved in the city. She stated the city cleanup would be on April 27th from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM and that volunteers were needed, and everyone should meet at City Hall. The Mayor and Council will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday April 27th, at 3:00 PM at Johnnie Frasier Park and everyone is invited to come out. Saturday May 4th, 2024, the city in conjunction with KLB will host a Recycle Event from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at City Hall, and that the Shred Truck will be in Midway at the Midway Complex.

Mayor Hayes and Councilman Underwood spoke about the meeting they had with a representative from Senator Warnock's office. They discussed the city's water infrastructure and obtaining sidewalks on both Dunlevie and Talmadge Roads.

- XIII. Adjournment: At 7:36 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kelly and the second was added by Councilman Underwood. Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor