

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Walthourville Police Department

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

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

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes	Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Mitchell Boston (phone)	Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the Council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present.

III. Invocation: The invocation was given by Walthourville Citizen Ms. Jane Chatham.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

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

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Approval of Minutes from the May 28, 2024 meeting was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.

Councilmembers voting favorably: Boston, Underwood, Kelly and Dodd.

Councilmember opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

VII. Presentation

1. Keep Liberty Beautiful

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated the presentation would be made at a later date.

VIII. Agenda Items.

1. LCPC

Ms. Lori Parks

Presented a Business License request for Mr. Justin Peek. Mr. Peek will be operating Success Auto Detailing from 42 Setter Lane. The property owner is Ms. Jennifer L. Bable. Mr. Peek will use a room in the home as an office to book appointments. All vehicle detailing will take place off site. The property is zoned R-8 (Single-family Residential). The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was provided by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. City of Walthourville

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Presented the IGA with Liberty County Board of Commissioners (Fire Service). The execution of the IGA is for the City of Walthourville to receive the \$16,500.00 that the County pays the city to service the unincorporated

area (State Route 119) of Liberty County. The period covered is from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. The motion to approve and execute the IGA was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Mayor Hayes stated the potential CPA firm CKH Consulting was present at the May 28, 2024 meeting and no action was taken because several members of council wanted to research the firm.

Mr. Roger Nixon, CKH Consulting, Vice President of Business Development participated in the meeting via telephone. Mr. Nixon stated his firm would come onsite and perform the work. During the time the CKH Firm would be in the city, the City of Walthourville would not incur any charges for lodging, the lodging would be handled by CKH. He stated some of the work could be conducted remotely. Councilwoman Kelly voiced concerns about the city's delinquent audits from 2021, 2022 and 2023—is not due until June 30, 2023. Mr. Nixon stated his firm would make the audits a priority. Councilwoman Kelly asked if they would be done in a month and a half. Reluctantly, Mr. Nixon stated they would try, they will have to assess the information, but he thinks all three are doable in ninety days. The motion to approve the CPA Firm of CKH was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly.

Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.

Councilmembers Voting Favorably: Councilmen Boston, Underwood, Dodd and Councilwoman Kelly.

Councilmember Opposed: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

4. City of Walthourville

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

Stated the City of Walthourville has been discussing ways to disseminate information to the citizens. The city has placed information in the Coastal Courier (newspaper), the City's Website at www.cityofwalthourville.com and the city's Facebook page (City of Walthourville). She stated "she doesn't have anymore solutions as the city has done its due diligence in providing updates." The city has partnered with VC3 to provide notifications to the citizens. The citizens will have to sign up on the city's website to obtain the alerts. City Clerk, Shana T. Moss reported the site is currently inactive, the software company is building the platform. When the platform is completed the Elected Officials and City Employees will be sent the information to "test," the site to ensure that it is active and sending alerts. The citizen must input either their email address or cell phone number into the notification tab that will be placed on the city's website. Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated the city needed to inform the citizens today about the program and give them a date when they can sign up. Ms. Moss reiterated that the city could not give a definitive date because the site is still being built. Mayor Hayes stated this is the final measure that the city will take to inform the citizens. This was an informational update only; no action was needed.

IX. Department Reports

1. Mr. Patrick Golphin

Water Department

Reported that meters were read on June 6th and the new water rate that was approved by the Mayor and Council would be enacted on this bill. Also, the city is still in need of meters that need to be replaced.

2. Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Fire Department

The Chief gave the Department's Statistics for the past two weeks. The department has answered 56 calls for service, 40 were medical, 4 traffic accidents, 7 fire alarms, 3 fires and 4 miscellaneous calls.

3. Chief Christopher Reed

Police Department

The Chief gave the Department's Statistics for Tuesday May 28, 2024 through Tuesday June 11, 2024. The department issued 69 citations, consisting of 41 warnings, 4 vehicle crashes and 27 incidents with reports. The Mayor Pro Tem raised the question about a citizen being issued a ticket for parking at Johnnie Frasier Park. Chief Reed stated he was familiar with the situation and the person that is being referenced is a repeat offender of being parked in the park. Numerous, Officers have warned the citizen that Johnnie Frasier is a car free park. The Mayor Pro Tem stated some cars are allowed to park and some aren't. Chief Reed added that oftentimes the city vehicles

plus public Safety vehicles park inside the gate. Mayor Hayes, Thanked the Chief and the Officers and told them to continue doing their jobs and that they are doing a good job.

X. Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman Mitchell Boston reported the city was still proceeding with the Request for Proposal for outsourcing the Sanitation Department.

Councilman Patrick Underwood reminded everyone "Popsicles in the Park," will be held on Friday June 14th from 12-2 at Johnnie Frasier Park and everyone was welcome.

Councilwoman Kelly reported the city has moved forward and submitted the LMIG Grant application that is administer through GDOT.

Mayor Pro Tem Lovette stated she had no report.

Councilman Robert Dodd stated Hurricane Season began on June 1st, please prepare and have a plan.

XI. Citizens Comments

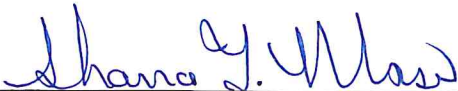
1. Ms. Gwendolyn Dykes stated she opposed sending any services out to a contractor. She stated maybe the city can increase Sanitation Cost/Bulk Trash. She hopes with the Fire Fee and Water Rate increase this will help the city. She asked the Mayor and Council to take into consideration that Walthourville has Great Employees, and we have our own equipment.

2. Mr. Michael Talley stated he has some issues with Public Safety. They sit in the median lane on 84 and this poses a problem if a citizen is trying to change lanes. He asked about the easements on Dunlevie and the lack of sidewalks.

3. Mr. Hakeem Cleary commented on the cement residual that is left on Highway 119 and 84.

Mayor Hayes had no comments.

XIII. Adjournment: At 6:44 PM the motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilman Underwood. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor