

City of Walthourville
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
June 25, 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	Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette
Councilman Mitchell Boston	Councilman Patrick Underwood
Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly	Councilman Robert Dodd

The attendance of the council constituted a quorum.

Attorney Luke R. Moses was present:

- III. The Invocation was rendered by Ms. Gwen Dykes.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- V. Approval of Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette:
Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.
- VI. Approval of Minutes: The motion to approve the June 11, 2024 minutes was made by Councilman Boston and the second was added by Councilman Dodd.
Vote: 4-1: Motion Carried.
Councilmembers voting favorably were: Councilmen Boston, Underwood, Dodd and Councilwoman Kelly.
Councilmember always opposing: Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.
- VII. Presentation:

City of Walthourville
Presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Keep Liberty Beautiful and a yard stake acknowledging the city's participation. She stated the City of Walthourville is present and actively engaged in cleanup, recycle fairs and other events hosted by Keep Liberty Beautiful.

Liberty Transit
Presented the newest service offered by Liberty Transit which is Paratransit. Liberty Transit ADA Paratransit provides services to individuals who are unable to use the fixed-route bus service because of a disability. Liberty Paratransit take appointments 24 hours a day. Liberty Transit Paratransit provides shared ride, curb to curb service to persons determined to be "ADA eligible" for trips that cannot be made using the fixed

route service. A customer may use the fixed route service for some trips and at other times they may need to use the paratransit system. Ms. Chatham provided packets that will be available at City Hall for citizens to pick up.

VIII. Agenda Items:

1. LCPC

Ms. Mardee Sanchez

Presented the preliminary plat for Boundary Hall Subdivision. The Developer is Liberty Properties and Holdings, Co, LLC and the engineer is T.R. Long Engineering. Boundary Hall will consist of 111 lots, single family homes that are zoned PUD. The homes will be located on Hardman Road in Walthourville.

There will be 53 Standard Lots which will include 6,000 square feet, of which will be the minimum Gross Lot Area, the minimum usable lot area will be 4, 500 square feet. There will be 58 Garden Lots which will include 4,500 square feet of minimum gross lot area with a minimum usable lot area of 4,000 square feet.

The city will be dedicated to new streets (5,466 feet) and the subdivision will obtain water and sewer from the City. Councilman Dodd asked will the retention pond be fenced. Engineer Trent Long stated yes. Mayor Hayes stated a citizen contacted her about the road leading into the property and he (Lloyd Busbee) wanted to ensure that it remained open and passable due to his elderly parents residing about two miles back into the property. Mr. Busbee was present and stated that he was concerned “with the construction and heavy equipment the road would be constricted, and emergency personnel might not be able to answer a call if his parents required emergency services.” Mr. Trent Long stated this could be accommodated, Developer, Mr. Claude Dryden was present in the audience, and he also stated this was a reasonable request that could be accommodated.

Councilwoman Kelly asked, “if the city had enough water and pumping capacity to meet the demands of these home,” Mr. Long stated yes. Mayor Hayes asked LCPC to include special conditions to keep the road passable and scraped while under construction. Councilman Dodd made the motion to approve with standard conditions as set forth by LCPC and the Special Conditions of keeping the road passable and scraped. The second was added by Councilman Underwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously

2. LCPC

Ms. Mardee Sanchez

Presented a Business License Request for New Creation Construction. The business owner is Mr. Joseph M. Hudson and will be located at 144 Vandiver Road. The owner is requesting to use a room in the residence as an office to operate the construction company. The business will consist of handyman work such as painting, remodeling, and construction work that will be done off of the premises. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Dodd and the second was added by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. Johnnie Frasier Park

City of Walthourville

This item was discussed in the Mayor and Council's Workshop and no action was taken. Park fees were discussed.

IX. Department Reports

Water Department

Mr. Patrick Golphin

Reported the city had received several calls of smelly water. Attorney Luke Moses read a statement from EOM Regional Director, Mr. Charlie Heino. Mr. Heino and his team are responsible for the city's water sampling and system. The statement from Mr. Heino in its entirety is listed below and will become an official part of the minutes.

"Ms. Moss,

Since we took over in September of 2022, we have checked the wells without fail every day of the year including holidays. One of our trained techs physically goes to the well sites and verify operation, disinfection, and chemical levels. Since we started, we have performed 662 chlorine residual tests to verify that a safe and permitted level of chlorine is maintained in the system. In the past 6 months, we have performed 23 state required bacteriological/ E. Coli tests and all results were NEGATIVE for bacteriological contamination. Since 2019, 40 Lead samples have been taken and show an average lead level of 1.6 PPB (Parts per Billion). The EPD limit is 15 PPB, so we are well below the required state limit.

This past month the EPD conducted a stie visit and took samples from two sites in the system and found no issues with water quality. The only deficiencies found were specific items at the well such as a chemical containment pad for fluoride, a scale, and chlorine switchover unit, etc. None of the items noted in the letter (attached) influence water quality in any way, and they will be completed or be in process to be completed this week.



**Charlie Heino
Regional Director. "**

Attorney Moses stated the city's water was safe. Does the city have aging infrastructure? Absolutely, but the city's water system is governed by EPD and if the water was found to be unsafe, the city would lose its license.

As a note about the water, the city's water problem did not happen immediately. In 2012 G. Ben Turnipseed Engineering, Mr. Ben Turnipseed advised the Mayor and Council at that time that they needed to take action, and make upgrades/repairs to the Water System or the city would encounter water problems in the future. The 2012 Council took no action.

Fire Department

Chief Nicolas Maxwell

Reported the department had answered 36 calls, 25 of which were medical. As of June 30, 2024 the City of Walthourville will not answer calls into unincorporated Liberty County (Highway 119 area). The county is opening a Fire Station that will encompass that area. Phase I of the Fire Hydrant Testing is complete.

Police Department

Chief Christopher Reed

Reported the department responded to 53 calls of service, 5 vehicle crash and 10 citizens were arrested. He further elaborated on the department's Diversion Program. The diversion program allows citizens that receive traffic citations to obtain a reduced fine, and it gives them 60-90 days to pay. He also reported that Corporal Adams and him were in instructor school in Savannah. This class will help the department tremendously because the class will be able to be taught in-house.

X. Mayor and Council Comments

Councilman Mitchell Boston stated the Sanitation Bid is out for the privatization of the Sanitation Department.

Councilman Patrick Underwood stated to remember the city's Movie Night on July 4th at 8:00 PM (time has changed to 8:30 PM since the meeting) at Johnnie Frasier Park. The movie that will be shown is The Lion King. He also stated perhaps the council needs to revisit the policy on bagging leaves. He states he thinks the leaves should be collected bagged or unbagged. Several councilmembers chimed in that this should be revisited also.

Councilwoman Bridgette Kelly stated she had no report.

Mayor Pro Tem Luciria L. Lovette asked, "did we apply for Grants by Senators Ossoff and Warnock?" Mayor Hayes, asked, "what grants?" The Mayor Pro Tem stated, "the city left money on the table because grants were available." She was asked what type of grants and Mayor Hayes reminded her the city's audits were lapsed; therefore, the city did not qualify to receive any grant funds. She also urged the city to look into FLOST (Flexible Local Option Sales Tax). Mayor Hayes stated she was aware of this tax as well as TSLOST that will be presented for renewal.

Councilman Robert Dodd stated, "the weather is extremely hot, drink plenty of fluids. He also urged everyone to be mindful of the signs of overheating.

XI. Citizens Comments (citizens are allotted 3 minutes)

1. Alma Wells of 84 Jones Court stated her concern was her Water Bill. Her bill went from \$60.00 to \$ 171.00. She said the fire fee was added and now the water has increased. Mayor Hayes stated she would contact her to have a meeting with her at City Hall. (City Hall has attempted to reach out to Ms. Wells to schedule this meeting and neither phone numbers that Ms. Well has on her

Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission

100 Main Street, Suite 7520
Hinesville, Georgia 31313
Phone: 912-408-2030



Jeff Ricketson, AICP

Executive Director

June 26, 2024

Trent Long, PE
TR Long Engineering
114 North Commerce Street
Hinesville, GA 31313

Re: **Preliminary Plat Approval
Boundary Hall**

Dear Trent,

As you are aware, last night the Walthourville City Council approved the preliminary plat for this 111-lot subdivision. This approval included LCPC's standard conditions and the following special condition:

The road that is used for access by an adjacent property owner shall be kept open and passable during construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mardee Sanchez, PE, CFM
Engineering Director

cc: Claude and Luke Dryden (owner)
Mayor Sarah B. Hayes (City of Walthourville)

account at City Hall are working numbers. City Hall has mailed a letter to Ms. Wells, asking her to contact City Hall to schedule the meeting and update her account.

2. Patricia Green stated her comment was directed on the water also. She stated she was a former member of Council (served from 1983-2020) and she wanted to know if the city would be providing water to the residents on Tibet Road in Long County. And with the new developments coming into the city, does the city have capacity for sewer? Mayor Hayes stated, “no the city will not be providing water to Long County and yes the city has the capacity for sewer consumption.

3. Terry Emmons of 51 Carrie Street had a complaint about the water. She states she experiences discolored water from her bathroom about 3 times a year. She stated the water is rusty, and she experiences most of the problems after it rains. She stated she has experienced problems three times in 2023. Mayor Hayes stated she would be scheduling a meeting with her about her concerns and problems. She also added she heard the information that was read about the water being safe but she was still concerned, because she did not want a Flint, Michigan situation here. Mayor Hayes stated, “the City’s water is tested daily and sent to EPD, if there was any indication of unsafe water EPD would be involved.”

XII. Executive Session

None

XIII. Office of the Mayor

Mayor Sarah B. Hayes

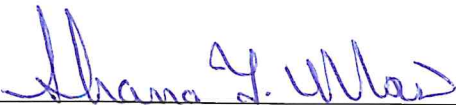
Reported the city’s citizen notification system. She stated citizens could go to the city’s website at www.cityofwalthourville.com and select the tab for City Updates. Upon depressing the tab, citizens will input their email address and telephone number and they will receive all updates. Mayor Hayes stated she has signed up and she is receiving alerts.

XIV. Adjournment

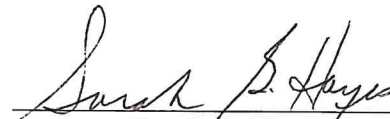
Councilmembers

At 7:33 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lovette and the second was added by Councilwoman Kelly

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried Unanimously



Shana T. Moss, City Clerk



Sarah B. Hayes, Mayor