

The  
*Village*  
of *Walnut Creek*

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The Village of Walnut Creek Council met in Regular Session, January 27, 2016 at 7:30 PM, 103 Village Drive.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Danny Jackson  
Councilman Cyndi Dupuy  
Councilman Pete Benton  
Attorney Phil Baddour

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Ricker  
Administrator Troy Smothers  
Clerk/Asst. Administrator Sharon Geelen

**ABSENT:**

Councilman Mike Daly

Also in attendance: Mike Vine, Matt Young, Larry & Connie Kammler, Steve Lamb, Ralph Smiley, Larry Boyce, Bryan Belden, Ken Barrett

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

Mayor Jackson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were no changes. Mayor Jackson asked for a motion to approval the financials for November and December and the December minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Ricker commented that financials looked good and made the suggestion that we have a budget amendment for water due to the delay in switching over to Wayne Water. Mrs. Geelen stated that the council had them in their packets for approval. Mayor Pro-Tem Ricker moved to approve the financials and December minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

Larry Kammler spoke against the proposed Salvation Army drop box and was presented to be placed in the Village.

Ralph Smiley commented on the lake and the plan for the drop down of the lake level. Danny Jackson closed the Public Comment period.

**Manager's Report:**

Administrator Smothers reported the Lake Committee requested that we get a fish count of the lakes with the possibility of restocking the lakes with bass and feeder fish. Foster's gave the Village a rough estimate of \$10,000 to \$12,000 to restock both ponds with a more accurate dollar amount given after the fish count.

Wayne Pregnancy Care Center requests to have a 5k run/walk on June 11<sup>th</sup> just like the one they had last year. Approved administratively by the board.

Mayor Jackson and the rest of the board introduced Troy Smothers as the new Village Administrator.

**Clerk Report:**

Mrs. Geelen briefed that we still have one outstanding tax bill from 2014 that is being handled by Mr. Baddour's office.

Mrs. Geelen stated that she attended Finance seminar and stated that is was a great learning opportunity. It is done yearly. Utility billing is going great and much smoother with the new form Mr. Ricker designed and that was implemented. Also, the maintance crew began using a new tablet that made Mrs. Geelen's job of inputting the meter readings much easier.

Property tax collection going very well.

Carpets have been cleaned in the office.

Mr. Ricker asked if any residents had made any comments about the new billing on water and sewer. Mrs. Geelen stated that the only questions were on the billing dynamics with the first 6000 gallons included in the billing and then usage charged above the base.

Mr. Ricker asked if we can determine what we bill verses what Wayne Water bills to determine what the leakage percentage may be.

**Police Chief Report:**

Chief Barrett announced February 6<sup>th</sup> will be a 1/2 marathon for the YMCA starting a 8:00 am. February 9<sup>th</sup> crime watch, February 27<sup>th</sup> conceal carry permit class. Cost is \$50 and 50 rounds of ammunition. Stated suspect has been charged with break-ins from this past summer. Received award from AAA motor club for Top 5 traffic safety for populations under 10,000 in North Carolina.

**Council Members Comments:**

Lake Committee representative Ricker addressed Ralph Smiley's question on lake level stated that gates opened at the end of December instead of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Stated that a repair was needed to fix one of the gates, to make sure lake was coming down at good pace for repairs and any maintance on seawalls. Gates will be closed around first of February only reason it would not be would be for anyone to continue repairs. Lake will need to be lowered every year if for no other reason to service the gates.

**Committee Reports:**

Greg Ricker: Lake Committee \$2500 to do a fish count and get a better idea of the cost of restocking of fish. Make sure Foster makes the lake treatment in a timely matter. 50 degrees is the point we make first treatment.

Water and sewer had some leaks recently on main lines which have been repaired.

Mr. Ricker also provided comments on the condition of the lakes and indicated we were satisfied with the maintenance being provided by Foster's Lake and Pond Management.

Mr. Ricker had no report on Audit.

Cyndi Dupuy thanked everyone for coming out and stated the back entrance project is complete and looks great. Spoke with Darren and Sharon about a portable generator for main building. Mr. Ricker stated that work has been done on the research and we need to update the pricing.

Mayor Jackson spoke for Mike Daly on Planning Board they did not have a quorum so no official meeting was held.

Pete Benton thanked everyone from coming out provided an update on letter from Gerritt Stone Suddenlink about the rate increase that would be seen on bills. Trash and Recycling has noticed trash pickup have been late on couple of days.

Mr. Ricker moved to put the Salvation Army box in Walnut Creek.

1 Yes Pete Benton

2 No Greg Ricker and Cyndi Dupuy

Suggestion made to put phone number to Salvation Army in the monthly newsletter.

Mayor Jackson briefed the council on the dredging project and the many obstacles to having it done. Cox-Edwards are in the processes of trying to find a company that does hydraulic dredging. But at this time the dredging project seems unlikely to occur.

### **Old Business:**

Salvation Army drop box was voted down.

Dredging Project seems very unlikely.

Employee Health Insurance was moved to the next Council Meeting Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business:**

Mayor Jackson announced the following committee members

- Lake- Greg Ricker, Jim Clough, Neil Dupuy, Tommy Wiggins, John Seegars, Cliff McCall
- Planning Board – Mike Daly, Craig Bowen, John Stiles, Larry Somerville, Leslie Hatch, Jack Kannon, Matt Young, Vacant

Water tank will not work with Wayne Water District and Troy Smothers was asked to get an estimate on taking tank down or any suggestions on what we can do with the tank. Suggestions were to contact Southern Corrosion about tank. Also, what to do about the antennas on top of the tank.

Mr. Ricker suggested that we look at paying down the lift station loan. Sharon will look into the options and payoff amount and fees associated with paying off early.

Budget Amendments presented by Mr. Ricker:

In the General Fund:

Inc. 103-Audit/Consulting by	\$200
Dec. 101-Clerk/Asst. Admin by	\$200

In the Utility Fund:

Inc. 720-Electricity-water by	\$4000
Inc. 740-Environmental Testing by	\$ 500
Inc. 750-Water Meter Maintenance by	\$2100
Inc. 755-Chlorine by	\$ 525
Inc. 790-Telephone by	\$ 561
Dec. 770-EWSD by	\$7686

Mr. Ricker motioned to approve the budget amendment, it passed unanimously

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to bring before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Administrator, Troy Smothers

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Mayor Danny Jackson