

# AGENDA

## PUBLIC HEARING OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street  
LaFayette, Georgia 30728

- Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2020
- Time:** Public Hearing 6:00 PM  
The Regular Scheduled Meeting will immediately follow the Public Hearing
- Invocation:** Given by Commissioner Shannon Whitfield
- Call to Order:** Commissioner Whitfield will call the meeting to order
- Pledge:** United States Flag
- Pledge:** Georgia Flag

### Open of Public Hearing New Business:

1. Ordinance No. O-01-20 - Amendment to Chapter 6 in the County Code of Ordinances Regulating the Possession, Sale & Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages

***Speakers will be asked to come to the podium and state their name for the record. Please limit your comments to five minutes and keep them on the topic of the above Ordinance.***

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Whitfield will adjourn the Public Hearing

***There will be a second Public Hearing on Ordinance No. O-01-20 at 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Courthouse Annex III, 201 S. Main Street, LaFayette, Georgia 30728***

COUNTY OF WALKER  
STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDINANCE NO. O-01-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE CODE OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA REGARDING SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL ANY AND ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**WHEREAS**, Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 3-3-21 has been amended to modify the distance requirements between sellers of alcoholic beverages and locations that are operated for certain purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, Walker County, Georgia desires to amend its alcohol ordinances to be consistent with the Official Code of Georgia;

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED** by the Walker County Sole Commissioner that the Code of Walker County Georgia is amended as follows:

1.

Sec. 6-8 (a) of the Walker County Code of Ordinances is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**Sec. 6-8 - Grounds for denial of a license.**

*(a) Prohibited locations.* With regard to the sale of malt beverages and wine by the package, it shall be unlawful to grant a license within the following areas of the county:

(1) within 300 feet of any school building, school grounds, or college campus, pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-21(a) (1)(B);

(i) Nothing in this subparagraph shall prohibit a “grocery store”, as that term is defined in O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-21(a)(1)(B), licensed for the retail sale of only wine or malt beverages for consumption off the premises within 300 feet of any school building, school grounds, or college campus.

(ii) As used in this subparagraph, the term “school building” is defined as is set forth in O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-21(a)(2).

(2) within 300 feet of any licensed alcoholic treatment center, as that term is defined by O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-21(a)(1)(C);

(3) within 300 feet of any housing authority property, as that term is defined by O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-21(e); and

- (4) in any existing building or establishment having a history of prostitution or other sex offenses; fighting, shooting, or other violence; gambling; illegal dealing of alcoholic beverages or drugs; or other serious violations of the law.

2.

Sec. 6-93 of the Walker County Code of Ordinances is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**Sec. 6-93. - License.**

(A) An applicant for an on-premises consumption license shall be required to submit an application as is set forth in Division 1 of this Ordinance and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-2.

(B) An application may be denied upon the grounds set forth in Section 8 or 9 of this Ordinance, except with regard to only on-premises consumption license, Sec. 6-8(a) is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

(a) *Prohibited locations:* It shall be unlawful to grant a license for the sale of on-premises consumption of malt beverages, wine, or distilled spirits within the following areas of the county:

- (1) within 300 feet of any licensed alcoholic treatment center, as that term is defined in O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-21(a)(1)(C);
- (2) within 300 feet of any housing authority property, as that term is defined by O.C.G.A. Section 3-3-21(e); and
- (3) in any existing building or establishment having a history of prostitution or other sex offenses; fighting, shooting, or other violence; gambling; illegal dealing of alcoholic beverages or drugs; or other serious violations of the law.

3.

This ordinance is effective immediately upon its adoption.

4.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**5.**

If any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.**

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Shannon K. Whitfield  
Sole Commissioner  
Walker County, Georgia

ATTEST:

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Rebecca Wooden  
Clerk of Walker County, Georgia



Mary Catherine O'Bryant

LaFayette City Council discussed an emergency action plan for the Queen City Lake in the case of a breach. An amendment to an ordinance was also passed that would mean opening the lake up to gas-powered water craft.

# LaFayette developing emergency action plan for city lake

By Mary Catherine O'Bryant  
MOBryant@WalkerMessenger.com

LaFayette City Council is developing an emergency action plan for Queen City Lake.

The Queen City Lake Safe Dam action plan is being headed up by CTL Engineers Inc. of Chattanooga.

"We are required to have a EAP in place for the city lake and dam related to the highly unlikely scenario that we do have a breach," City Manager David Hamilton said.

"There is no indication that there is any risk of this," Hamilton said. "We go through dam inspections at least once a year. Every two years we go through a third party dam evaluation."

The city is working to put together a communication plan and reactive plan in case of a breach.

The plan will also consist of a topographical survey to determine and predict where

the water would go in the event of a breach.

The survey will also help the city be aware of the impact based on the flow of water and how many gallons of flow occur per minute.

The engineering budget has been quoted as \$45,000, and most of the expense will be related to the surveying.

"We are creating an emergency action plan from scratch," Hamilton said. "Unless something changed concerning the topography of the area or something developed downstream, it should not be needed."

"It should be the only dam plan we need," Hamilton said.

The council approved moving forward with the plan on Nov. 14.

The Queen City Lake ordinance will also change to make the lake more friendly for recreational use.

The lake will now be open to gas engines at idle speed.

"This is one of our next steps for the growing use of our lake," Mayor Andy Arnold said.

# Chestnuts roasting on an open fire

I have a Christmas story for you. I am sharing, with permission, an excerpt from one of the best Christmas columns I have ever read, written by Mark Evanier. Mr. Evanier is a Los Angeles-based writer who has inspired me for many years.



Carroll

He wrote this on the occasion of the death of singer Mel Tormé in 1999. That sparked a special Christmas memory for Mr. Evanier, and I'm honored to share it with you today.

It happened at the Farmers Market in Los Angeles. It is a quaint collection of stores and produce stands. You buy your pizza slice or sandwich, then carry it on a tray to an open-air table.

During the summer, the place is full of families and tourists. But this was a winter weekday, shortly before Christmas, and the crowd was mostly older folks. It's a good place to get a donut, to sit and read the paper.

On this day, I headed for my favorite barbecue stand and noticed that Mel Tormé was seated at one of the tables.

My favorite singer, just sipping a cup of coffee. I had never met Mel Tormé. I didn't stop and say, "Excuse me, I just wanted to tell you how much I've enjoyed your music." I wish I had.

Instead, I got a sandwich and settled down at a table to consume it. It was about halfway through when four Christmas carolers strolled by. They were young adults with strong voices and they were all clad in splendid Victorian garb.

The Market had hired them to stroll about and sing for the diners.

The singers concluded to polite applause. I waved the leader over and directed his attention to Mr. Tormé, seated nearby.

"That's Mel Tormé. Do you know who he is?" The singer was about 25 so it didn't surprise me that he said, "No."

"I asked, 'Do you know 'The Christmas Song'?' That's the one that starts, 'Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...'"

"Oh, yes, of course," the caroler said.

"I said, 'That's the man who wrote it.' The singer thanked me, returned to his group for a brief huddle...and then they strolled down towards Mel Tormé. As they reached him, they began singing 'Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...'"

A big smile formed on Mel Tormé's face — and it wasn't the only one around. Most of those in attendance knew who he was, and many seemed aware of the significance of singing that song to him.

As the choir reached the last chorus, Mel got to his feet and said, "Let me sing this one." The carolers — all still unaware they were in the presence of one of the world's great singers — looked a bit uncomfortable. I'd bet they were thinking, "Oh, no...the little fat guy wants to sing."

But they stopped and he started to sing...and, out came this beautiful, melodic voice.

The look on their faces was amazed at first...then properly impressed.

On Mr. Tormé's signal, they all joined in on the final lines: "Although it's been said, many times, many ways...Merry Christmas to you..."

I looked and at all the tables surrounding the impromptu performance, I saw huge grins of delight...which led into a huge burst of applause. It all only lasted about two minutes but no one who was there will ever forget it.

I have witnessed many thrilling "show business" moments — where all the little hairs on your epidermis snap to attention and tingle with joy. Usually, these occur on a screen or stage. I hadn't expected to experience one at a Farmers Market — but I did.

Mr. Tormé thanked the harmonizers for the serenade and one of the young women said, "You really wrote that?"

He nodded. "A wonderful songwriter named Bob Wells and I wrote that...and we did it on the hottest day of the year in July. It was a way to cool down."

Then one of the young men said, "You know, you're not a bad singer." Mel chuckled. He realized that these young folks had no idea who he was, until this moment. "Well," he said, "I've actually made recorded a few albums."

"Really?" they asked. "How many?"

He smiled and said, "Ninety." Today, I'm reminded of that moment. And I'm impressed to remember that Mel Tormé was also an accomplished author and actor. Mostly though, I'm recalling that pre-Christmas afternoon.

I love people who do something so well that you can't conceive of it being done better. It doesn't even have to be something important: Singing, dancing, plate-spinning, whatever. There is a certain beauty to doing almost anything to perfection.

This was in the pre-cell phone camera era. No recording exists of that chorus that Mel Tormé sang for the diners at the Farmers Market. But believe me, it was perfect. Absolutely perfect.

David Carroll, a Chattanooga news anchor, is the author of "Volunteer Rama Duvay," a collection of his best columns. You may contact him at [ramaduvay@chattahoochee.com](mailto:ramaduvay@chattahoochee.com), or 900 Whitehall Road, Chattanooga, TN 37405.

Advertisement for State Farm with a photo of Sallie Smith and the text: 'Stuff your wallet. Sallie Smith McGinnis, 502 N. Main St., LaFayette, GA 30528. 705-438-3555. sallyc@statefarm.com'

# How do I get my pictures off my camera?

There are multiple ways you can move your pictures from most digital cameras to your computers depending on the camera. You could use a cable, move to a card or use Wi-Fi.



Watt

I prefer using a USB cable you connect your camera to your computer. The higher end cameras use a USB mini cable and the lower priced (and smaller) cameras often use a USB micro cable. Generally, these are generic cables, with the USB mini also being used to connect other devices to your PC and the USB micro used to connect phone to the computer and chargers.

Once you connect the cable between the devices and the camera is on, you will see it listed as another disk type drive in File Explorer (the folder icon) in Windows. When you look in it you will need to go in the subfolders and pic-

tures are usually in a folder called DCIM. They appear there the same as on a disk drive. You can then copy and paste them from that drive to the computer hard drive as you would move items on the computer hard drive.

The second way is to take the SIM card out of your camera and insert it in your card reader in your computer. Laptops often have built-in card readers or you can buy card readers to connect to a USB port. Then you will work with the card using File Explorer as I explained using the USB cable. Then put the card back in the camera.

The third way is available on newer cameras and is using Wi-Fi. You can do a connection on Wi-Fi using NFC to transfer pictures from the camera to a phone. To use NFC the devices must be near each other. I have not tried this yet as I have not wanted to

## SEND YOUR QUESTIONS ...

Send your questions about computers to my email: [d Dwight@dwightwatt.com](mailto:d Dwight@dwightwatt.com). I will pick a question to answer each week.

Dwight Watt does computer work for businesses, individuals and organizations and teaches about computers at a college in Northwest Georgia. His website is [www.dwightwatt.com](http://www.dwightwatt.com) His email address is [d Dwight@dwightwatt.com](mailto:d Dwight@dwightwatt.com).

I would encourage you to also save your pictures to a second hard drive or to a CD/DVD or flash drive as a back up so if the drive fails or malware gets on your computer you still have your pictures.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. The Governing Authority of Walker County, Georgia proposes to amend Chapter 6 in the County Code of Ordinances Regulating the Possession, Sale & Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages. O-01-20 would amend language dealing with square footage and distance requirements for businesses. Public hearings on the proposed ordinance will be held on January 9, 2020 & January 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street in LaFayette, GA. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for review at the Commissioner's Office (101 S Duke St, LaFayette) and online at [walkercountygov.com](http://walkercountygov.com).

Table with 3 columns: Project, Original Estimated Cost, Current Estimated Cost. Lists various infrastructure projects with their respective costs.

Walker County 2019 Report on Projects Funded Through Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (2014 Referendum) As of December 31, 2019. Large table with columns for Project, Approved in 2014, Original Estimated Cost, Current Estimated Cost, and Amount Expended by year (2014-2019).

Public Notice Walker County Planning Commission Meeting. Thursday, January 16th, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. Walker County Civic Center Board Room, GA 30729.