

TOWN OF WALKER
MINUTES

February 9, 2009

7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and Board of Aldermen was held at the Walker Town Hall on February 9, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Present were Mayor Bobby Font, Aldermen Elton Burns, Scarlett Major, James Phillips, Jack Summerell and Richard Wales.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Mr. Don Townsend.

Mayor Font led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. James Phillips, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales, to accept the January 26, 2009 minutes as presented.

Mr. Brian Verrett presented the Board with a proclamation on behalf of the American Cancer Society. Mr. Verrett requested the Board proclaim April 24, 2009 as American Cancer Society Relay for Life Day in the Town of Walker. Mr. Verrett urged the community to support fund raising for this event that will help in the fight against cancer.

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion to support the proclamation declaring April 24, 2009 American Cancer Society Relay for Life Day in the Town of Walker. Mr. Elton Burns seconded the motion.

Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Jack Summerell tabled the matter of the ordinance on Budget Expenditures: stating that the ordinance was under legal review.

Mr. Elton Burns made a motion to appoint Mr. Richard Wales as Mayor Pro Temp. Mr. James Phillips seconded the motion.

Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Elton Burns made a motion to appoint Mrs. Scarlett Major as alternate Mayor Pro Temp. Mr. James Phillips seconded the motion.

Yeas: Burns, Phillips, Summerell, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Major

Chief Grimes reported call volumes are up at the Police Department; however arrests are down which Chief Grimes credits to the law enforcement officers being proactive in the community. Citations reported are 791 for the month of January 2009.

Chief Grimes introduced Mr. Nelson Ragas, Mr. Randy Hallford, and Mr. Jason Powell as new reserve offices. Chief Grimes requested that the Board commission these individuals as reserve offices for the Walker Police Department.

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Mr. James Phillips made a motion approving Chief Grimes request to commission Nelson Ragas, Randy Hallford and Jason Powell as reserve offices for the Walker Police Department. Mr. Elton Burns seconded the motion.

Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

Chief Grimes introduced Mr. Darren James, requesting Board approve hiring him as a full time police officer. Mr. James would be replacing a position that was just vacated by another office.

Mr. James Phillips made a motion to approve the hiring of Mr. Darren James as a full time police officer for the Walker Police Department. Mr. Richard Wales seconded the motion.

Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

Chief Grimes requested the Boards approval to promote Lieutenant Marliam Lee to the rank of Captain for the Walker Police Department.

Mr. Elton Burns made a motion to approve the promotion of Lieutenant Marliam Lee to Captain. Mrs. Scarlett Major seconded the motion.

Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

In regards to a request from Mr. Elton Burns at the January 26, 2009 meeting Chief Grimes provided a list of all vehicles that were in need of immediate repair or replacement. Mr. Burns then requested a list of all vehicles that are assigned to the police department along with the a list of all full time police officer with arrest power, all part time paid police officers with arrest power and a list of all reserve officers. Mr. Burns stated that they needed this information so that the Board could help. Mr. Burns requested that the information be presented to the Aldermen ten (10) days before the next meeting.

Mayor Font updated the audience on several issues pertaining to the Town. First, Mayor Font reported that the DEQ Settlement has the Town looking for approximately 1.5 million dollars to perform a water and a sewer project both costing somewhere in excess of \$500,000.00. The water project is the Greenwich Village and sewer project being in the Industrial Park. DHH has funds available to loan with and interest rate of 3.95%. DEQ also has money to loan at a .95% interest. We are progressively seeking these funds due to the fact that DEQ mandated in the agreement that we have 18 months to complete the projects.

The second item Mayor Font reported on was the Ball Park, stating that the Town has spent a lot of time and effort preparing the fields for this year's ball season. Registration is being accepted now for the summer league. Mayor Font informed the audience that the money to cover these cost has been received from registration as well as sponsorship signs that have been sold.

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The third item that Mayor Font reported on was the First Animal Adoption Day held at the Walker Wal-Mart. Animal Control Office, Mrs. Reasea Coley, along with volunteers sold hot dogs and took donations. The shelter collected \$226.00 and adopted out 6 dogs.

Mayor Font introduced Ms. Pam McNally, stating that Ms. McNally was hired as a grant writer for both the Town of Walker and the Walker Police Department.

Mayor Font informed the Board that we are currently working on and updating the Organizational Chart to include any and all Department Heads. In the near future we hope to present the Board with up to date job descriptions as well as ask for Board approval for these positions.

Mr. James Phillips offered a motion to lift the regular agenda to hear a resolution pertaining to appoints for the Louisiana Municipal Natural Gas Purchasing and Distribution Authority. Mr. Elton Burns seconded the motion.

Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

After the resolution was read, a motion was made by Mrs. Scarlett Major with a second by Mr. Richard Wales to appoint Mayor Bobby Font as Director of the Louisiana Municipal Natural Gas Purchasing and Distribution Authority for a four (4) year term, as well as appointing Mr. Larry Williams as alternate Director for the same term, to act in the absence of the director.

Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

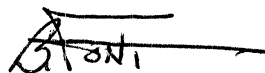
Mr. James Phillips made a motion to return to the regular agenda. Mr. Jack Summerell seconded the motion.

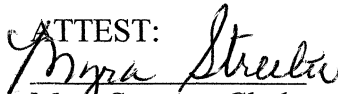
Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

There being no public comments or further business to discuss Mr. Richard Wales made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Scarlett Major seconded the motion.

Yeas: Burns, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED


MAYOR BOBBY FONT

ATTEST:

Myra Streeter, Clerk
CMXC; CMA; CAA