

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2025

6:00 PM

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at Walker City Hall—13600 Aydell Lane on Monday, August 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Watson, followed with prayer by Mr. Cook. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, conducted the roll call of the council members.

The following council members were present: David Clark, Eric Cook, Tracy Girlinghouse, Gary Griffin and Scarlett Milton-Major.

Mayor Watson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025 council meeting. With there being no comments or questions, a motion was then made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Girlinghouse, to adopt said minutes.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Major, Griffin
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, gave an overview of the June 2025 finance report. Mr. Cotton reported that the net assets ending June 30, 2025 were \$1,491.872. He also reported that sales tax was up 19%; gas revenue was up by 8.4%.

The Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, brought before the council the matter of an appeal requested by Steven McLin of S. McLin Investments, LLC. A resolution was passed by the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 21, 2025, denying the preliminary site plan submitted by S. McLin Investments for a proposed development, Burns Lane Place Apartments, on Burns Lane. The Planning Commission recommendation was that the city council uphold the decision to deny.

Mr. Etheridge read *LA RS 33:101-119* to the council which defines the purpose, role, and duties of a Planning and Zoning Commission under the Lawrason Act. He followed with reviewing a 'Future Land Use Map 3.2', blueprint of the City of Walker. He stated that when a preliminary site plan is presented before the commission that complies with zoning requirements and is in accordance with the UDC (*Unified Development Code*), approval is typically granted.

Mr. Jerome Klier, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, provided the justification of the denial—the basis being that the density of the land is not suitable for such a development. The site plan, as presented, would not be compatible with the present land use in the area. Additionally, traffic impact, concerns about sanitation and the overall health, safety and welfare of the residents in the surrounding area were cited as reasons for denial.

Billy Taylor of S. McLin Investments was allowed to address the council. S. McLin Investments requested of the council that the decision to deny made on July 21, 2025 by the Planning & Zoning Commission, be overturned and they be allowed to proceed with the preliminary site plan of Burns Place Apartments.

Mayor Watson called for a motion from the council to approve or reject the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission before permitting public comments and discussions.

The motion to reject the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission was made by Mr. Girlinghouse and seconded by Mr. Clark.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

City attorney, Bobby King, provided clarification of the delicate dynamics of this case. He explained what is involved and what is the city's responsibility to remain in compliance with established guidelines to avoid potential liability.

Mayor Watson opened the meeting for public comments to give others an opportunity to speak on the matter of the Burns Place Apartments. Property owners, Gurtie Burns and Milton Burns, dominated the discussions with their comments opposing the development.

After a lengthy exchange with commentaries from Mayor Watson, members of the council, Jerome Klier and Dale Inman, who also serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Mayor Watson called for a motion from the city council to decide on the appeal made by S. McLin Investments, LLC.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Ms. Major, the preliminary site plan of Burns Place Apartments on Burns Lane was approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Additional Comments

- ❖ Ms. Major announced that the new air conditioning unit was installed courtesy of Coburn Supply at the City of Walker at the Walker Animal Shelter.
- ❖ Mayor Watson commented on the great turnout for the Night Out Against Crime event put on by the Walker Police Department at Sidney Hutchinson Park held on Tuesday, August 5th.
- ❖ Mayor Watson asked everyone to be mindful that school is back in session. He urged everyone to be careful and safe.

With no further business to discuss, the August 11, 2025 council meeting was adjourned.

Attest:


Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk


The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor