

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2022 6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Jimmy Watson called the meeting to order. Council member Richard Wales led in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, conducted the roll call.

The following council members were present: David Clark, Eric Cook, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major and Richard Wales.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Ms. Major, to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2022 council meeting.

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

Mayor Watson initiated a new informational segment in our city council meetings that will allow each department head to provide intel on the varied functions of their department. They will introduce their employees and explain their job functions. First, Mayor Watson provided an overview of Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, extensive credentials, and experience in water services.

Mr. Etheridge requested that Ms. Wendy Montalbano come forth to introduce her team of employees. Ms. Montalbano is the Wastewater/Environmental Compliance Supervisor and the Water/Sewer Maintenance Construction Supervisor. After giving a brief synopsis of the services her department provides, Ms. Montalbano introduced each present member of her team and explained their job functions. Each employee was given outstanding commendations for their dedication, skills, and extraordinary work ethic demonstrated daily.

Brent Bennett of Badger Meter commended the City of Walker for its usage of the newly installed 5100 water meters. Mr. Bennett made impressive remarks on how well the City of Walker has embraced the technology of this product. The City of Walker has a 99.9% communication health in maintenance and functionality. Mr. Bennett receives notifications that apprises him of the operation efficiency of the city’s meters.

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, reviewed before the council members the December 2021 Financial Report. He reported the city’s net profit/loss for the period ending December 31, 2021, was (\$727,824). There was a 3% decrease in gas revenues. Sales tax revenue increased by 9.9%.

Trey Sanders of Hannis T. Bourgeois, presented before the council an Engagement Letter for Agreed Upon Procedures for the 2021 audit that requires council approval. It is the state-wide Agreed Upon Procedure that mandates testing in the categories outlined in the agreement. This is a one-year engagement letter. No opinion will be given by Hannis T. Bourgeois but, a written report of the results will be submitted to the City of Walker.

It was upon a motion made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the Engagement for Agreed Upon Procedures as presented by Mr. Sanders.

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

Next, Trey Sanders brought to the council’s attention that the original three year Agreed Upon Engagement Letter signed in 2021 required a change in the wording to perform audits. The amendment updates are relative to audit preparations that will access areas that are at risk for fraudulent activity.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the changes in the original engagement letter.

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

Jamie Etheridge presented before the Mayor and City Council the Resolution to Purchase Used Equipment; Title 39, Part III, Source Selection and Contract Formation, Subpart A – Methods of Source Selections for the Purchase of Used Vehicles. This resolution provides an alternative method to purchase used equipment without the necessity of bids in instances when it's cost effective to purchase quality equipment immediately.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wales, the aforementioned resolution was approved as presented.

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

Jamie Etheridge presented before the Mayor and City Council the Resolution Requesting to Declare City of Walker Property Located at 13179 Burgess Avenue as Surplus Property (formerly the Walker Police Station).

Upon a motion made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Ms. Major, the aforementioned resolution was approved as presented.

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

Jamie Etheridge presented before the Mayor and City Council the Resolution to Adopt and Allocate Funds for Outdoor Fitness Courts@ as part of the 2022 National Fitness Campaign.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Clark, the aforementioned resolution was approved as presented.

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

Jamie Etheridge presented before the Mayor and City Council the Resolution Adopting Changes to the City of Walker Employee Handbook Holiday Section. The resolution adds an 'employee's birthday' to all full-time, 10-hour employees annual holiday schedule as a day off with pay.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Clark, the aforementioned resolution was approved as presented.

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

Chief David Addison recommended to the Mayor and City Council the approval to hire three new employees.

Chief Addison introduced Sammy Coniglio as a part-time candidate to assist in clerical duties. Mr. Coniglio is retired from the Louisiana Attorney General's Office as the former Director of Gaming.

The motion was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the hiring of Sammy Coniglio.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Chief Addison introduced to the Mayor and City Council reserve candidate, Delonta Miller. Mr. Miller has completed the application process, and passed the Spartan psychological evaluation, the polygraph testing, drug screening and physical exam.

The motion was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve Delonta Miller as a reserve officer with the Walker Police Department.

Chief Addison introduced to the Mayor and the City Council full-time candidate, Brando Tullios. Mr. Tullios is a former employee of the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Detention Center. He has successfully gone through the application process, passed the Spartan psychological evaluation and polygraph testing. He has also passed the drug screen and physical.

The motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve Mr. Tullios as a full-time police officer with the Walker Police Department.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Additional Comments:

Mayor Watson announced that the pond at Sidney Hutchinson Park has been fully-stocked by the La. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with rainbow trout. Some fish have been tagged. Anyone who catches and notifies Wildlife and Fisheries, will receive a prize.

Ms. Major commented on the success of the Krewe of Barkus event held at Sidney Hutchinson Park February 11 – 12, 2022. She remarked that the attendance was approximately 300 with about 200 dogs.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None



Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk



Jimmy Watson, Mayor