

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2022

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Jimmy Watson called the meeting to order. Prayer was rendered by Councilman Gary Griffin, 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 Mr. Wales, to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2022 council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Major Watson asked Jamie Etheridge to come forth and present the informational segment. The staff and employees featured were from our Administration and Utility Departments. Mr. Etheridge began by introducing staff members: Lisa Frey (Executive Administrative Assistant/Human Resources Director); Tammy Payton (Municipal Clerk); Darla Peak (Payroll Clerk); and Ashley Freeman (Utility Department Supervisor). Mr. Etheridge provided an overview of the past and present capacities each staff member has served the City of Walker expressing his gratitude for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Etheridge asked Utility Supervisor, Ashley Freeman, to introduce to the members of the council the employees of her staff of five. Ms. Freeman complimented her staff for providing quality customer service daily. They assist customers in-person as well as over the phone with compassion and patience.

Prior to Finance Director Mike Cotton introducing the members of his team, Jamie Etheridge acknowledged Mike's tenure with the City of Walker since 2017. Mr. Etheridge expressed his appreciation for the outstanding work Mike has done in the Finance Department the past five years that has contributed to the economic development of our local municipality.

Jeanette Fabre (Accounts Payable Clerk) and Kelsey Murray (Finance Assistant, Grants Coordinator, Deputy Clerk and Disaster Recovery Specialist) were presented before the members of the council by Mr. Cotton. He commended each member of his administrative team with high praises for the receptive manner they carry out their work duties. He expressed his appreciation for the diligent manner and sacrifices shown when completing challenging tasks.

Afterwards, Mike Cotton provided an overview to the Mayor and Council members the January 2022 Financial Report. He reported the city's net profit/loss for the period ending January 31, 2022, was \$882,842. He reported a 19% decrease year over year in gas revenues. Sales tax revenue increased by 9%.

Robert Dugas addressed the Mayor and Council members in place of Chief James Wascom regarding the referendum to increase the millage on April 30, 2022. The Livingston Parish Fire Protection District 4 [LPFPD4] wish to appeal to voters to support the proposed increase of the millage rate by 15 mills for a total of 25 mills because of the enormous population growth Livingston Parish have experienced in 40+ years. The passing of this referendum will allow for improved service levels in staffing, maintenance, and equipment that will provide increased safety in fire, rescue, and other emergency response services for over 64,000 persons and 24,000 households. Rack cards were available with additional details.

Jamie Etheridge presented before the members of the council a resolution to appoint Mayor Jimmy Watson as Director and Mr. Larry Williams, Alternate Director, to the Louisiana Natural Gas Purchasing and Distribution Authority.

It was motioned by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Griffin to approve this resolution.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Jamie Etheridge presented before the members of the Council a resolution requesting to declare City of Walker vehicles as surplus Property:

FA 68	2015	FORD	EXPLORER	VIN: 1FM5K7B81FGA56794
FA 3024	2019	DODGE	DURANGO	VIN: 1C4RDHAG2KC827022

It was motioned by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve this resolution as proposed.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Ms. Scarlett Major made an introduction of the rezoning request in Peak's Landing—1.272 acres tract CAP-1-A-2-B-Sec 25 6-3 from R70 to C to be discussed at the April 2022 council meeting.

Major Watson read to the audience the 2022 Flood Awareness Proclamation. This proclamation advocates that citizens and individual property owners take measures to reduce the risk of loss during the Spring season due to devastating floods.

Additional Comments:

- Mayor Watson commented on the Kite Festival at Sidney Hutchinson Park on Saturday, March 12, 2022. Although unable to attend, he received word that it was a well-attended event.
- The City of Walker will accept bids in August 2022 to resurface Aydell Lane which will extend from the bridge to La. Hwy 447. Servitude work must be done beforehand on both sides of the road.
- Mayor Watson additionally stated that there are several pending overlays that will be done by the Parish [Park St., Keith St., Johnson St., and Brannon St].
- Mayor Watson offered congratulations to the Walker High School Boys and Girls Basketball Teams for making it to the finals. It has been a great accomplishment for the last four years.
- Mr. Dan Credeur asked for an update on the road work on Pendarvis Lane. Kreston Brown of Forte and Tablada explained that there was a utility relocation issue that required a servitude acquisition. The maps have been completed and are currently under review by DOTD.

With no further business matters to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wales and seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn.

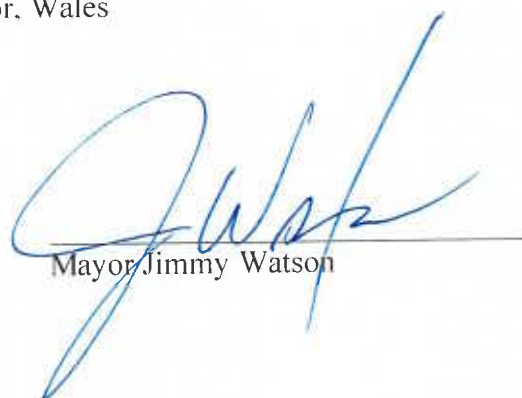
YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Attest:


Tammy Payton – Municipal Clerk


Mayor Jimmy Watson