

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2022

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Jimmy Watson called the meeting to order. Councilman Richard Wales led the meeting in prayer. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, followed with 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 April 11, 2022 council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Watson recognized the Walker High School gymnast, Cody Midboe. After introducing Cody and acknowledging his various gymnastic accomplishments, Mayor Watson presented him with a City of Walker medallion and a key to the city.

The mayor announced that Chief Deputy Jason Harris of the Livingston Clerk of Court, will not attend the May council meeting. He is currently out of town and will reschedule another time.

The employee recognition segment opened with Jamie Etheridge presenting Dee-Dee Ockman, the Purchasing Agent and Accounts Receivable Manager for the City of Walker. Mr. Etheridge commended Dee-Dee for being an asset to the management staff at the city and a team player. She's been employed with the city since June 2018 and is dedicated to 'getting the job done.' Ms. Ockman introduced Ronald Collar as the warehouse supervisor, describing him as a devoted, hardworking employee whom she wishes she could multiply. Next, Ms. Ockman introduced her assistant in accounts receivable and purchasing, Stephanie Smith. Stephanie has been employed since April 19, 2022. Ms. Ockman commented that she has enjoyed working with her and is optimistic about the future.

Featured next was Clerk of Court, Janice Valenti. Janice has been with the City of Walker since March 21, 2005, hired as the Utility Billing Clerk Supervisor. She later moved to the collections and disconnect side. She later transferred to the Clerk of Court in 2015 as the Deputy Clerk. Since 2020, Janice has served as the Clerk of Court. Janice was recognized as a hard, dedicated worker with whom Mr. Etheridge has enjoyed working with. Ms. Valenti introduced her deputy clerk assistant, Denni Tweedy. Denni has been with the city since August 2021. Ms. Valenti commended Denni for her outstanding customer service abilities and her eagerness to render her assistance where needed.

Randy Albarez was introduced to the council as the Parks and Recreation Supervisor since January 2022. The council was informed of Randy's extensive work history and experience in the sector of park and recreation in addition to serving as a board member for LMA. Randy introduced his team of four—Sandy McGrew, Sephronia Hopkins and Sidney Netterville. Bruce Thomas and Richard May were absent. Randy did a special recognition of Traci Westmoreland for her longtime, valuable contributions to parks and recreation program in the city. She is known as the face of sports in Walker. He could not do his job without her.

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, came forth with the March 2022 financial report. Mr. Cotton reported a net profit \$1,662,814 year to date. He reported a 17% decrease in gas revenue and 20% increase in sales taxes. Mr. Cotton informed the council that the auditors had completed our audit and are currently working on preparing the audit report.

Jamie Etheridge brought before the council a resolution requesting the expenditure of funds to acquire eighteen acres of land @ the 13000 block of Aydell Lane.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve and adopt this resolution with the effective of May 9, 2022.

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Ms. Major, the council meeting went into public meeting.

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

Councilman David Clark presented to the council the 2022 Annual Budget Amendment No. 1. The approval of **Ordinance #05-2022-01** would increase the general fund expenditures by \$28,000 to be transferred from the special revenue fund for the purchase of a 1998 Mack Model #RD690S dump truck.

It was motioned by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve this ordinance as proposed.

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

Councilman David Clark presented before the council the approval of **Ordinance #05-2022-02** to utilize the population data from the 2020 Federal Decennial Census which declares the apportionment status of the districting plan to be equitable and continue its existing apportionment plan for the City of Walker. Walker’s population was 6,138 in 2010 and 6,374 in 2020. The increase of 236 represents less than a 5% increase.

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

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

Upon motion made by Mr. Wales and seconded by Mr. Cook, the public meeting was closed.

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

Additional Comments:

- Scarlett Major asked our Community Event Coordinator, Sandy McGrew, to inform every one of the new self-defense classes now offered at the Safe House. The class is currently full but, additional classes will be scheduled in the future.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wales and seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn the May 9, 2022 council meeting.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wales and seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn the May 9, 2022, council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None



Mayor Jimmy Watson

Attest: 
Tammy Payton – Municipal Clerk