

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2025,

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at Walker City Hall—13600 Aydell Lane on Monday, June 9, 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.

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

Mayor Watson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025 council meeting. Mayor Watson asked if there were any comments or questions. With there being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Girlinghouse to adopt said minutes.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Major, Griffin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Finance director Mike Cotton presented the April 2025 finance report. He reported that the net profit ending April 30, 2025 was \$1,557,288. Sales tax was up by 4.6%; gas revenue was up by 7.4%.

Mr. Griffin introduced an ordinance for the 2025 Budget Amendment No. 2—219 Funds, South 1-12 Sewer Phase 2 with no discussion.

Mayor Watson called for a motion to enter into a public hearing. The motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Cook.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Clark brought before the council the proposed Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances for the City of Walker, Chapter 19, Article I, Section 19-111, Water Fees and to Provide for Related Matters. Jamie Etheridge reviewed in further detail the changes in the residential and commercial water rates that were based on the Louisiana Rural Water Association Rate Analysis. It was noted that the last rate adjustment was in 2015.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Girlinghouse, seconded by Ms. Major, Ordinance 06-2025-01 was approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Major, to close the public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Jamie Etheridge presented before the council the Resolution to Adopt the 2025 Millage Rate of 1.83 (Millage Key 5153001) for the District of the City of Walker.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Girlinghouse, seconded by Mr. Griffin, the motion was approved.

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

City Attorney, Bobby King, brought before the council the matter of the suspension/revocation of the occupational license for IVAPE 2, Inc. It was determined that IVAPE 2, Inc. violated Walker City Ordinance, Section 10-3 as it pertains to the sale of Mitraqyna Speciosa Korth (Kratom) at 28050 Walker South Road, Ste. F. Defense attorney, R. Neal Wilkinson, was present and addressed the council members on behalf of the owners, Karam Hamdan and Saber Zaban. He requested that the council postpone deciding the fate of the business' occupational license pending the outcome of the criminal charges.

After a lengthy discussion amongst the council members, in addition to comments made by Off. Justin Ballard who was dispatched to the scene on May 8, 2025 when the Kratom was sold, it was concluded that the IVAPE 2 store was in violation of the Walker City Ordinance Chapter 10, Section 10-3.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the revocation of the occupational license for IVAPE 2, Inc.

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

Assistant Chief Kenath Black, presented before the council full-time hire candidate, Bryslan Thomas. Mr. Thomas has successfully met the criteria set by the department to be recommended as police officer.

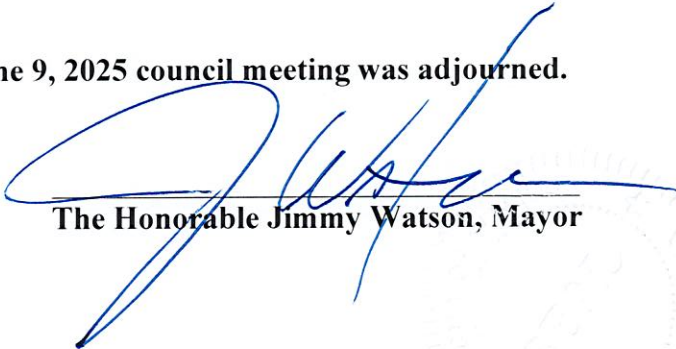
A motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the hiring of Bryslan Thomas.

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

Additional Comments

- ❖ Mayor Watson announced that the 4th of July celebration will be held on Saturday, July 5, 2025 from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM.**
- ❖ The [Walker DiscGolfPark](#) has bustled with activity since the official ribbon cutting on Friday, May 30, 2025. Data reported states that 1039 rounds have been played including visitors from nine states and two countries; 4.4 billion steps have been taken on the course and eighty-one (81) players participated in the disc golf tournament held Saturday, May 31st.**
- ❖ Parks & Recreation will host two summer camps: Athletic Camp, June 16-20, 2025; Music, Arts & Science, July 14-18, 2025.**
- ❖ Wesley Thibodeaux made public comments regarding the recent raid of the IVAPE 2 store. He expressed how this incident has had an emotional, traumatic impact on him.**

With no further business to discuss, the June 9, 2025 council meeting was adjourned.


The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest:


Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk

