

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2025

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at Walker City Hall—13600 Aydell Lane Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Jimmy Watson called the meeting to order and led the procession in prayer. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, followed with a 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 introduced candidate for 21st Juvenile Court Judge, Jessica C. Ledet. Ms. Ledet was given an opportunity to present her platform. She requested everyone's support.

Mayor Watson called for a motion to adopt/approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025 council meeting. With there being no comments or objections, a motion was made by Mr. Girlinghouse, seconded by Ms. Major, to approve said minutes.

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

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, presented the January 2025 finance report. He reported that the net profit ending January 31, 2025 was \$800,526. The sales tax decreased by 0.3%; gas revenue decreased by 8.1%. Also, the 2024 annual audit is scheduled to begin in April.

Mr. Griffin made an introduction of an ordinance—2025 Budget Amendment No. 1; Purchase Flood Monitoring Devices. There were no discussions.

Mayor Watson recognized Gravity District #5 Chairman, Stephen Howze and Superintendent, Nick Rickards, for the aid and support rendered to the City of Walker over the years. A discussion followed on how the citizens of Walker have benefited from services LPGDD#5 have provided.

City Attorney Bobby King addressed the council regarding the suspension and subsequent revocation of the occupational license for Cali Smoke Shop. Video footage was shown of the altercation initiated by the owners of Cali Smoke Shop with the neighboring Sunset Smoke Shop. Members of the Walker Police Department were present. They provided additional details of the arrests and pictures of the weapons seized. The owners of vape stores were not present. Mr. King recommends that the City of Walker impose a 30-day temporary license suspension of Cali Smoke Shop to allow for an appeal prior to the hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Girlinghouse, seconded by Ms. Major, to approve this legal recommendation.

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

Jamie Etheridge presented before the council the following resolutions:

Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Livingston Parish Gravity Drainage District #5 to Facilitate Five (5) Nexsens Data Loggers Designed to Track Water Levels Within Watersheds in the City of Walker.

A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the resolution as presented.

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

Resolution to Approve the Proclamation Declaring April as Fair Housing Month

This proclamation is in support of equal housing opportunities for all the citizens of Walker.

A motion was made by Mr. Girlinghouse, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the resolution as presented.

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

Resolution to Declare City of Walker Vehicles as Surplus Property

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve two(2) Walker Police Department vehicles as surplus as recommended.

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

Assistant Chief of Police, Kenath Black, presented Drew Hunt before the council to recommend his rehire at Walker Police Department. Mr. Hunt is POST and Taser certified.

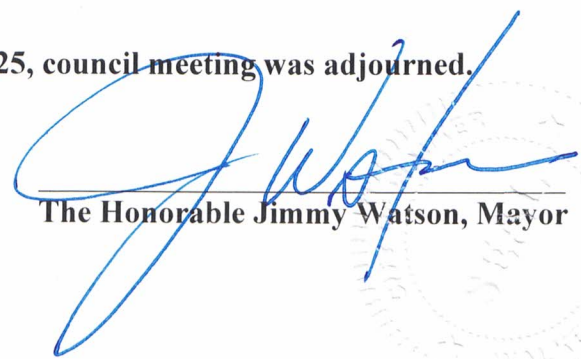
A motion was made by Mr. Girlinghouse, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the full-time hire of Drew Hunt.

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

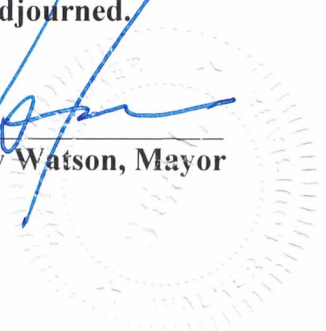
Additional Comments:

- ❖ Mayor Watson announced the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt Event at Sidney Hutchinson Park scheduled on Sunday, April 13th from 12 Noon – 4:00 PM.
- ❖ Local citizen, Weston Joseph Thibodeaux, was allowed to speak to the council about the banning vape shops inside Walker’s city limits. Mr. Thibodeaux supports the existence of vape shops. He stated in his address that he uses Kratom to self-medicate for chronic pain.
- ❖ Kresten Brown of Forte & Tablada stated that the Magnolia Bridge should be reopened this week.

With no other matters to discuss, the March 10, 2025, council meeting was adjourned.



 The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor



Attest:


 Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk