

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2022

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, August 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jimmy Watson. Councilman Gary Griffin led the meeting in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Municipal Clerk Tammy Payton called the roll call.

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

It was motioned by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2022 meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Chief of Operations Jamie Etheridge recognized the superintendent of the city's Gas Department, Larry Williams, who has been in the city's employ since August 28, 1992. Mr. Williams manages the second largest gas system in Louisiana. He is well respected by his employees as well as respected by those in other departments. He exemplifies leadership qualities, a team player and appreciated for his professionalism. He regularly attends the meetings at the Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority and well known throughout the gas industry.

Following Mr. Etheridge's introduction of Larry Williams, Larry proceeded to introduce his employees in the order of their years of service. He considers it a privilege to lead such an exemplary group of people who are not only dependable but, who works very hard.

Mayor Watson asked Larry to remain at the podium to present him with a plaque honoring him for 30 years of service with the City of Walker. Larry conveyed his appreciation for the honor.

Prior to Representative Buddy Mincey's presentation before the council, Jamie Etheridge provided background information on the site location for the tower broadband internet in the City of Walker. It will be located on a five-acre parcel of property donated by the Jenkins family on Hwy 449. It was donated to serve as a buffer zone between the Industrial Park and a residential area.

Representative Mincey of District #71 addressed the council with the details of the broadband project. It is part of the Gumbo Grant. The state of Louisiana was awarded \$176 million. This grant will provide affordable internet access to underserved communities. It will promote digital literacy by breaking the digital divide statewide. Livingston Parish was awarded \$3 million in funding for this endeavor. The site in the City of Walker is a \$750,000 investment that will be for infrastructure construction and maintenance. Mr. Mincey introduced two representatives, Brandon Mayes and Landon Cox, who stood in proxy for Evanta Showers. Mr. Showers is part of the committee organized to address the broadband issues in our parish. After much discussion, Mr. Cox and Mr. Mayes added that emergency response systems would greatly benefit from the upgrade in broad band services.

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, presented the June 2022 financial report before the city council. He reported \$1,477,949 in net assets. The city's gas sales increased 6%; sales were up in May by 2.1% but, down 1.5% in June.

Mayor Watson requested that the agenda be lifted to discuss the recommendation from the Walker Police Department to promote Cpl. Brant Villenurve to Sergeant.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to lift the agenda.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Assistant Chief of Police, Kenath Black, addressed the city council regarding the promotion of Cpl. Brant Villenurve from corporal to sergeant. Cpl. Villenurve has been employed with the Walker Police Department since June 13, 2016. His superiors have expressed they feel Cpl. Villenurve has gained the necessary experience and maturity to manage day to day situations as well as maintain charge of Evidence and Crime Scene.

It was, thereby, motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the promotion of Cpl. Brant Villenurve.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to close the agenda.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

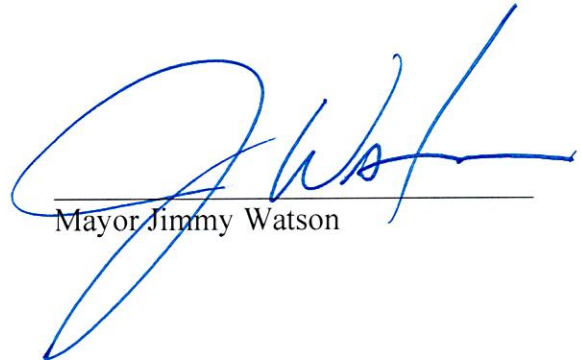
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Additional Comments:

Mayor Watson invited Larry Williams to introduce his family who attended the meeting in his honor. The Mayor also acknowledged his granddaughter, Raylan Williams—recognizing her amazing accomplishment in making it to final six on the show, “So You Think You Can Dance.” He wishes to invite her back later.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Wales made a motion to adjourn the August 2022 council meeting.



Mayor Jimmy Watson

Attest: 

Tammy Payton – Municipal Clerk