

CITY OF WALKER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES

April, 14, 2014

6:00 PM

The regular scheduled meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on April 14, 2014 at 6:00pm. Present were Mayor Rick Ramsey, Council Members, Jonathan Davis, Tracy Girlinghouse, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major and Paul Roberts.

The meeting was opened with pray led by Mr. Gary Griffin.

Mr. Gary Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Tracy Girlinghouse made motion, seconded by Mr. Paul Roberts to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2014 meeting as presented.

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major and Roberts  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Candidate for Family Court Judge, Glenn Westmoreland, addressed the council and requested their support.

Candidate for 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Norman Clark, addressed the council and requested their support.

Mr. Gary Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Davis to adopt a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major and Roberts  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Mayor Ramsey told the council that several citizens had approached him regarding the annexation of property south of the I-12 Interstate including South Walker Elem. Mr. Tracy Girlinghouse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Davis to proceed with the necessary steps to begin the annexation process.

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major and Roberts  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Mrs. Cindy Hill a property owner adjacent Moore Street was present to inquire as to item 9 on the agenda; Approval to Dispose of Unimproved Right of Way (Moore Street)  
Mr. Paul Roberts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tracy Girlinghouse to table item # 9 until more information could be made available.

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major and Roberts  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Mrs. Nancy Kimble informed the Council that the City of Walker had received an increase to a Class 8 in the National Flood Insurance Program managed by FEMA. Such a rating will allow citizens of our community to receive a 10 % discount in the premium cost for their flood insurance. Mrs. Kimble

stated that the City is continually trying to earn points to increase the percentage of discounts allowed for the citizens of Walker.

Mayor Ramsey explained to the Council that the City had been looking into several ways to recoup lost revenue and make it more convenient to pay for fines. He informed the Council that he would be considering entering into an agreement with nCourt for collection of outstanding and current fines. nCourt will provide all of the equipment and services for the electronic payment service at no cost to the City.

Mayor Ramsey informed the Council that he had received information from CEIS digital sign company. CEIS will erect a digital monumental style sign with no cost to the City. CEIS will sell advertizing to offset the cost of the sign. Mayor Ramsey also stated the sign will help to keep the citizens informed as to upcoming events, weather conditions etc.

Mayor Ramsey informed the Council that the City of Walker's ball park sign located at Hwy 447 and Ball Park Road was on property belonging to Mr. Dale Stram. Mr. Stram has indicated that he would like to sell the property to the City or the City would need to move the sign. The cost of the property would be \$50,000.00 and the cost for moving the sign, would be approximately \$25,000.00. As a result Mayor Ramsey, recommended the City purchase the property. A motion was made by Mr. Tracy Girlinghouse and seconded by Mr. Paul Roberts to approve the purchase of the property for \$50,000.00.

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin and Roberts  
Nays: Major  
Absent: None

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paul Roberts to accept the lowest bid and award the contract for replacing of the water lines on Park Street to L. King Company, LLC in the amount of \$81,813.00.

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major and Roberts  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Mayor Ramsey informed the Council that the City was discussing the possibility of entering into a contract with Continental Utility Solutions, Inc. (CUSI) for the purpose of making on- line payments by credit card into the utility billing software which is now currently being used by the City. There will be a charge of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for the utility billing software update. Mayor Ramsey indicated that this will save the City money on the cost of having to process credit cards for those that use the on- line system. Mr. Tracy Girlinghouse made a motion, seconded by Paul Roberts to sign the contract entering into the agreement with CUSI to purchase the software at \$2,000.00.

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin, and Roberts  
Nays: Major  
Absent: None

Mr. Tracy Girlinghouse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Davis to dispose of old cell phones no longer used by the City.

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major and Roberts  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Mrs. Scarlett Major introduced an ordinance to be set for a public hearing at the next regular scheduled meeting on Monday, May 12, 2014 to amend the ABC ordinance to provide for penalties and fines for not complying with the ordinance.

Mr. Tracy Girlinghouse introduced an ordinance to be set for a public hearing at the next regular scheduled meeting on Monday, May 12, 2014 to amend the 2014 Budget – Revenues and Expenditures.

Lieutenant Chris Dufour presented the Police Report indicating there were 582 citations issued, 976 calls for service and 102 arrests.

As per Chief Lee's written request to commission officers with the Denham Springs City Marshal's Office, Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin to approve the commissioning of the following officers; Marshal Jerry Denton; Chief Deputy Joe Shumate; Lt Anthony Groger; Cpl. Nick Dimattia; Cpl. Shawn Kelly; Deputy Bo Vann; Deputy Andre Sylvester; and Sgt. Brian Firmin (Baton Rouge Constable Task Force).

Yeas: Davis, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major and Roberts  
Nays: None  
Absent: None


The public hearing set for the Blight Property was tabled until the May 12, 2014 meeting.

Following a public hearing for the request to rezone property located along Hwy 447 (North Corbin) belonging to Mr. Jimmy Jenkins. Mr. Paul Roberts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin to table this item until the May 12, 2014.


Yeas: Griffin, Major and Roberts  
Nays: Davis and Girlinghouse  
Absent: None

There being no additional business to discuss or any additional comments. Mr. Gary Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Davis to adjourn.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

  
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RICK RAMSEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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Myra Streeter, Clerk  
CMC; CMA; CAA