

CITY OF WALKER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES

August 14, 2017

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on August 14, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson, council members; David Clark, Eric Cook, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major and Richard Wales.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Mayor Jimmy Watson.

Mr. Eric Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to adopt the minutes from the July 10, 2017 meeting as presented.

Yeas:	Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

Chief of Operation, Mr. Jamie Etheridge, Mayor Jimmy Watson and City Attorney, Bobby King each updated the council on the status of our community on the year anniversary of the 2016 flood event. Mr. Etheridge indicated that Walker was back up and running with only a few more repairs needing be to made, stating we were waiting on funding from FEMA which should be received in approximately 4 or 5 months. Mayor Watson indicated that there were 724 structures damaged, 55 commercial business and 669 residential homes. 30 mobile homes and 5 houses have had to be demolished thus far, indicating that a few more houses may have to be destroyed. Seventy-five (75) to Eighty (80) percent of our displaced citizens have moved back into their homes. Of the remaining affected people, some are still working on getting back in their homes and others are just now starting the remodeling /construction process. City Attorney, Bobby King informed the council that the flood law suit that was filed on January 5, 2017 in Baton Rouge had originally been moved to Federal Court by the defendant's in the law suit, the City 's council opposed the decision and it was transferred back to state court on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Jimmy Watson made a special presentation of keys to the City to Mei Xiao "Nick" owner of Foo Chow and Naji Sadeq "Tommy" owner of Los Sombreros for their kindness and generosity shown during the flooding event in preparing between 4 and 5 thousand meals at their own expense to feed the flood victims and volunteers.

Mr. Jody Stanford informed the council that a survey had been conducted of the residents of Guy Street regarding the placements of speed bumps along the road. The results of the surveys received were 9 yes' 3 no's and 2 indifferent. Discussion was opened to the public. Several residents were present and indicated they would prefer more police patrol along with other suggestions. The decision was made to take all of what had been said into consideration, to get with the police and DPW departments, to get pricing on the speed bumps and then come up with the best plan of action.

Mr. Gary Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook to approve a resolution to apply for funding through the Capital Region Planning Commission - MPO program for improvements on the following roads; Pendarvis Lane – Phase 1,2 and 3, and Peak Lane over the next 4 years. The City of Walker will commit local funding of 20% of the construction cost and the associated environmental and engineering fees.

Yeas:	Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

Mr. Eric Cook introduced an ordinance for a Budget Amendment to be set for a public hearing on Backflow/Grinder Pumps.

Mr. Richard Wales introduced an ordinance for a Budget Amendment to be set for a public hearing on Park Improvements.

Following a public hearing Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. David Clark to adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 5, Article II, Building Codes.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Following a public hearing Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin to adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 20, Article IV, Section 20-56. Schedule of Permitted Uses, Restrictions and Regulations of the Building Code.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

During the public hearing on the ordinance for rezoning of property located at 29806 Magnolia from R80 to RC, Mayor Jimmy Watson asked that the board table this item based on the recommendation from the city attorney; adding because of the controversy surrounding this rezoning, the City wants to have the correct answers to all questions that had been raised. The Council questioned the City Attorney who reiterated his advice to table the item. After more discussion from both the City council and the Audience, Mr. Eric Cook made a motion to table the item of rezoning property located at 29806 Magnolia. This motion failed for lack of a second.

Following the public hearing for the rezoning of property located at 29806 Magnolia from R-80 to RC, Mr. Richard Wales made a motion, seconded by Mr. David Clark to approve the rezoning.

Yeas: None  
Nays: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales  
Absent: None

Chief David Addison presented the police report indicating that 701 citations, 1349 calls for service and 137 arrests were made during the month of June 2017.


During public comments Mr. Damon Baldone, Public Service Commissioner for District 2 was present and spoke about his desire to be a pro- active public servant and the Entergy Efficiency Program which awards grant money to governmental agencies.

Mrs. Margaret Griggs requested that if at all possible could the City notify the customer by either text or roto call when there is an issue regarding boil order for the water and or either outages. She was informed that the City is checking into programs that have that capability.

There being no additional comments and no additional business to discuss, Mr. Richard Wales made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook to adjourn.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

ATTEST:

  
Myra Streeter, Clerk  
MMC; CMA; CAA

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

  
MAYOR JIMMY WATSON