

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2024

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Jimmy Watson called the meeting to order which was followed with prayer by council member, Eric Cook. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, followed with the roll call of the council members.

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

Mayor Watson called for a motion to adopt/approve the council minutes of the December 11, 2023 council meeting. With no comments or objections, a motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the minutes.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Watson called for a motion to adopt/approve the minutes of the special council meeting held Wednesday, December 20, 2023. With no comments or objections, a motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales to approve the minutes.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, presented the council the November 2023 financial report before the council. He reported that the total net assets ending November 30, 2023 was \$2,314,939; sales taxes decreased 12.3% and gas revenue increased 1.8%. The council members approved the November 2023 financial report (without a motion).

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Watson announced the new appointment of Mr. Jim Brown to the Planning and Zoning Commission Board to fill the vacancy of Mr. Lavell Craig. Mr. Craig retired from the board after 21 years of service on December 18, 2023. Mayor Watson called for a motion from the Council to approve.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, the council approved the appointment of Jim Brown to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Clark, to enter into a public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Council member, Scarlett Major, presented before the council proposed 2024 Annual Budget Amendment No. 1.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales, Ordinance #01-2024-01 was unanimously approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was then made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to close the public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

City Attorney, Bobby King, addressed the council regarding ½ Cent Sales Tax Renewal that is scheduled to be on the City of Walker ballot in a special election on April 27, 2024. Due to the absence of Jim Ryan (IRMA), Government Consultants, Mr. King and Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, explained and expounded on the significant impact the ½ cent sales tax has made in our sewer, roadway, and drainage improvements since it was voted on in 2000. Informational material was available at the meeting. Plans to provide more information to the citizens of Walker will be forthcoming approaching the special election.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Griffin, the resolution ordering and calling for the special election to held in the City of Walker on April 27, 2024 for the purpose of authorizing the renewal of the levy/collection of a one-half of one percent (1/2%) sales and use tax within the City.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Jamie Etheridge presented before the council the proposed Resolution Approving the City of Walker Submitting a CDBG Grant Application/Louisiana Watershed Initiative Program and Authorizing Mayor as Official Representative.

A motion was made by Mr. Wales and seconded by Mr. Griffin to approve the resolution as presented.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

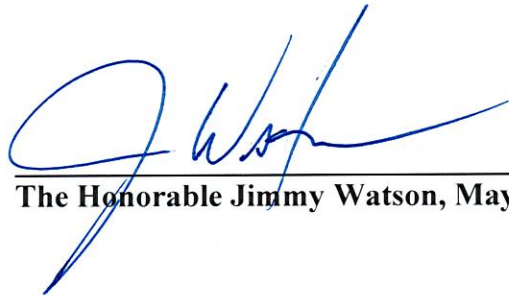
ABSENT: None

Additional Comments:

- ◆ Jamie Etheridge gave the status on the Aydell Lane Road improvement projects.
- ◆ Scarlet Major provided photos of the 2023 Christmas Light Contest. Three gift baskets were awarded to the first, second and third prize winners. Additional pictures are posted on the city's Facebook page.

- ◆ Dog People of Livingston Parish will be sponsoring a Spay/Neuter Clinic on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (January 12-14, 2024) at Club Outreach. Approximately 300 animals are expected to be serviced.
- ◆ The Krewe of Barkus parade is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2024, starting @ 11:00 a.m.—Sidney Hutchinson Park.

With no further comments, a motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adjourn the January 8, 2024, council meeting.



The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest: 
Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk