

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2023

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at Walker City Hall on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jimmy Watson, followed with prayer led by Councilman, Eric Cook. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, followed with the roll call of the council.

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

Mayor Watson called for a motion to adopt the minutes for the council meetings held on June 12th and June 26th, 2023. There were no comments or objections.

The motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve/adopt the minutes for both meetings.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Watson afforded the following political candidates an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves at the council meeting: John Mangus, Livingston Parish Council, District 6; Jeff Ard, Parish President; Jim Norred, State Representative District 71. Kellee Hennessy Dickerson, candidate for the House of Representative, District 64 was unable to attend as scheduled.

Financial Director, Mike Cotton, presented the May 2023 financial report to the mayor and members of the council. The total net assets for the period ending May 31, 2023 were \$1,635,184. The gas revenue was 10.9% and sales tax 0.5% year over year. Mr. Cotton expressed his appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2022 annual audit.

Mr. Clark introduced an ordinance for the 2023 Budget Amendment No. 2 for Streets/ Drainage and Sewer. The proposed ordinance will be subject to a public hearing at the August 2023 council meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Clark, to enter into a public hearing to discuss Ordinance to Amend Chapter 4, Sec. 4-2/Cruelty to Animals of the City of Walker Code of Ordinances (07-2023-01).

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Ms. Major explained that the changes to the existing ordinance addressed the matter of animal hoarding. It recommends that it will be at the discretion of the animal control director to determine if the situation creates a public nuisance that affects public health, safety or the welfare by virtue of the number and/or types of animals kept or harbored. City attorney, Bobby King, further elaborated that the proposed changes will allow the matter to be handled in Mayor's Court by the court magistrate.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales, Ordinance #07-2023-01 was approved as recommended.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

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

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Kresten Brown of Forte & Tablada, Inc. provided updates on the progress Phase 1 of the two MPO projects underway on Aydell Lane and Pendarvis Lane.

Chief David Addison requested that the council approve his recommendation to change the status of Tristan Priest from a reserve officer to full-time officer now that there is an opening at Walker Police Department.

A motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve Chief Addison’s recommendation upgrade Tristan Priest employment status.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Additional Comments:

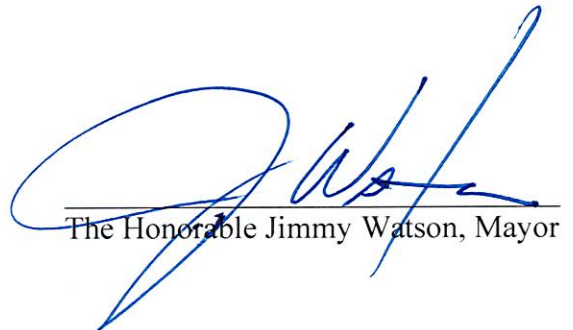
- The 4th of July Event held Saturday, July 1, 2023 at Sidney Hutchinson Park was considered a success. It was estimated that 4000 were in attendance.
- Mayor Watson recognized Mr. William O. Flowers, Jr., a WWII Navy veteran, who turns 100 years old on July 12, 2023. He was awarded a Walker medallion and a certificate to commemorate the occasion. A slideshow of pictures was shown with Mr. Flowers holding his certificate along with other photos of Mr. Flowers with his family.
- Ms. Major announced a free Spade and Neuter Clinic this weekend. The City of Walker partnered with Dog People of Livingston Parish to sponsor this clinic a second time.
- Mr. Cook announced the Rock the Block in the Community event scheduled for Saturday, July 15th, from 11:00 – 5:00 at Club Outreach Civic Center. There will be a health clinic, food vendors and guest speakers. The event is free to the public.

With no further business or comments to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wales and seconded by Ms. Major, to adjourn the July 10, 2023 council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None



The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk