

# CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2023

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jimmy Watson, followed with prayer led by Council member, Eric Cook. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, called the roll of the council after the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

With no comments, Mayor Watson called for a motion to adopt the council minutes for the April 10, 2023 meeting.

With a motion that was made by Mr. Wales, then seconded by Ms. Major, the minutes from the April 10, 2023 council meeting were adopted.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Watson introduced candidate for State Representative of District #71, Jim Norred. Mr. Norred stated he hope to fill Buddy Mincey, Jr. position who is a candidate for the State Senate seat.

Financial Director, Mike Cotton, presented before the mayor and members of the council the March 2023 finance report. Assets as of March 31, 2023 were \$1,486,095. Gas revenue decreased by 10%; sales tax revenue decreased 9%.

Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, presented to the council the Resolution to Update the Employee Handbook regarding Sick/Annual Leave, New Employees and Drug-Free Workplace Policies. The language was changed that will bring the city's handbook in compliance with state and federal laws, which is compatible to the City of Walker being an At-Will employer.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Griffin, the resolution as proposed was approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Etheridge reviewed before the council the 2022 Walker Water System Grade report from the La. Department of Health. The City of Walker scored an overall grade of A (94/100 (94%)). Mr. Etheridge analyzed each category, providing a detailed explanation for each score.

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

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The proposed ordinance introduced at the April 2023 council meeting for the Issuance of the \$2.5 Million Taxable Excess Revenue Bond through the Louisiana Department of Health was presented by Ms. Major. Jamie Etheridge further elaborated on the bond's usage and that the City's obligation to repay the principal of the Bond shall be forgiven.

It was motioned by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve **Ordinance #05-2023-01: Ordinance Authorizing the Incurring of Debt and Issuance of the \$2.5 Million Taxable Excess Revenue Bond (LDH)** .

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

It was then motioned by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Wales, to close the public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Police Chief David Addison requested that Assistant Chief Black present before the members of the council the candidates for hire and promotions.

Full-time candidate, Justin Ballard, was presented before the Mayor and Council. As a rehire candidate, Mr. Ballard is a post-certified who has completed the hiring process and passed all the required tests.

Upon the motion made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Ms. Major, Mr. Ballard recommendation for hire was approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Pfc. Seth Dillon was presented before the Mayor and the Council for the recommended promotion to the position of Corporal.

Upon the motion made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales, Seth Dillon was approved for promotion to Corporal.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Cpl. Jonathan Oliver was presented before the Mayor and the Council for the recommended promotion to Sergeant.

Upon the motion made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Ms. Major, Jonathan Oliver was approved for the promotion to Sergeant.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Sgt. Gerald Sicard was presented before the Mayor and the Council for the recommended promotion to Lieutenant.

Upon the motion made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, Gerald Sicard was approved for the promotion to Lieutenant.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Major Watson announced that May 7-13, 2023 is **Drinking Water Week**. The signed proclamation was read aloud by Water Service Director, Wendy Montalbano.

**Additional Comments:**

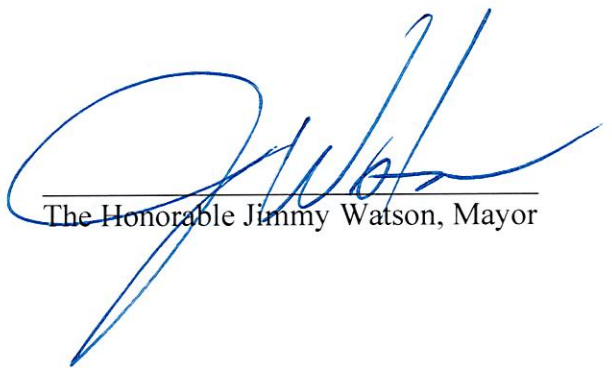
- Mayor Watson announced the Fishing Rodeo Event this weekend—May 13<sup>th</sup> at Sidney Hutchinson Park.
- The Jeep Show and Jambalaya Cook-Off is scheduled for June 10, 2023.
- The lighting of ballpark, Field Three at Sidney Hutchinson Park is completed.
- As the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners for District VI in the “Cleanest City Contest”, the City of Walker gained entrance in the state-wide judging which took place May 2 – 5, 2023. The results are expected to be announced next week.

With no further business to discuss, it was motioned by Mr. Wales and seconded by Mr. Cook, to adjourn the May 8, 2023 council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None



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The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest:



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Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk

# CITY OF WALKER

ORDINANCE #05-2023-01

May 8, 2023

The following ordinance, having been previously introduced on April 10, 2023, Notice of Introduction having been published in the official journal, and a public hearing held thereon on the date hereof, was offered for final adoption by Mr. Wales and seconded by Mr. Clark.

## ORDINANCE

An ordinance authorizing the incurring of debt and issuance of a Taxable Excess Revenue Bond (LDH), in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000, by the City of Walker, State of Louisiana, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Walker, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the City of Walker, State of Louisiana (the "City"), that:

SECTION 1. Authorization and Sale of Bond. Pursuant to Subparts A of Part II of Chapter 4 of Subtitle II of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 39:501-531, specifically including 39:526) and other constitutional and statutory authority (collectively, the "Act"), the City is hereby authorized to incur debt for the purpose of paying costs of constructing and acquiring improvements, extensions and replacements to the City's drinking water system (the "System"), including equipment, fixtures and accessories therefor, and related costs of issuance, and to represent said indebtedness, the City shall issue its Taxable Excess Revenue Bond, Series 2023, in an amount not exceeding Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000) (the "Bond"). The Bond shall be issued in the form of a single fully registered bond, dated the date of delivery thereof and numbered R-1. The Bond shall be non-interest bearing and shall mature not later than ten (10) years from the date thereof. The principal of the Bond will be subject to forgiveness as provided in Section 3 below.

Pursuant to the Act and La. R.S. 39:526(B), the City has determined to sell the Bond at a private sale without the necessity of publishing any notice of sale. Accordingly, the Bond is hereby sold to the Louisiana Department of Health Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (the "Department"). The purchase price of the Bond shall be paid to the City by the Department in installments on an "as-needed" basis, and the date and amount of each installment of the purchase price shall be noted on the Bond. The obligation of the City to repay the principal of the Bond shall only accrue to the extent of the purchase price of the Bond theretofore paid by the Department.

SECTION 2. Form and Execution of Bond. The Bond shall be in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and the Mayor and Clerk of the City are authorized and directed on behalf of the City to execute, seal, and deliver the Bond to the Department.

SECTION 3. Security for Bond; Principal Forgiveness. As provided by the Act, the Bond will be secured by and payable, to the extent payments are due, from the revenues of the City of subsequent years, after the payment from such revenues of (1) all charges required by law or regulation, (2) all contractual obligations, (3) all necessary and usual charges provided for by ordinance or resolution, excluding depreciation and (4) all payments in respect of bonds for which a pledge or dedication of specified taxes or revenues has been provided by law or in proceedings authorizing such bonds, regardless of the date of issue of such bonds, all in accordance with the provisions of the Act and other constitutional and statutory authority. The City shall budget and set aside from time to time as necessary sufficient revenues, subject to the foregoing, to pay the debt service on the Bond if and when due.

However, it is understood that the terms of the purchase of the Bond by the Department provide that the City's obligation to repay the principal of the Bond will be forgiven simultaneously with the payment by the Department of each installment of the purchase price of the Bond. Accordingly, it is anticipated that no payments of principal, interest or administrative fees to the Department will ever be due and payable on the Bond. Notwithstanding any law or contractual provision to the contrary, the forgiveness at any time of any or all the principal of the Bond theretofore advanced by the Department shall in no way extinguish the Bond or the obligation thereof with respect to the yet-to-be advanced portion of the principal thereof.

SECTION 4. Recital of Regularity. This Governing Authority, having investigated the regularity of the proceedings had in connection with the Bond, and having determined the same to be regular, the Bond shall contain the following recital authorized by and having the effect set forth in R.S. 39:507, to wit:

"It is certified that this indebtedness is authorized by and is issued in conformity with the requirements of the Constitution and statutes of Louisiana."

SECTION 5. Loan Documents. The Commitment Agreement and the Loan and Pledge Agreement, in the forms on file with the City, are hereby approved. The Mayor and the Municipal Clerk of the City are authorized to execute and deliver the Commitment Agreement and the Loan and Pledge Agreement on behalf of the City, with such changes as may be deemed necessary, upon the advice of bond counsel, in connection with the Bond.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk of the City are hereby further authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the City, to accept, receive, execute, seal, attest and deliver all such additional documents, certificates and other instruments as are required in connection with the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Bond and to take such further action as may be appropriate or required by law or advised by bond counsel in connection with the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Bond.

SECTION 7. Publication; Peremption. A copy of this ordinance shall be published immediately after its adoption in one issue of the official journal of the City, provided that as provided by La. R.S. 39:509, the exhibit to this ordinance need not be published but will instead be available for public inspection at the office of the Governing Authority during regular business hours on weekdays.

SECTION 8. No Recourse on the Bond. No recourse shall be had for the payment of the Bond or for any claim based thereon or on this ordinance against any member of the Governing Authority or officer of the City or any person executing the Bond.

Effective Date. **Ordinance #05-2023-01** shall take effect immediately.

The above and foregoing ordinance was read and adopted and then submitted to an official vote as a whole, following a public hearing, the vote thereon being as follows:

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

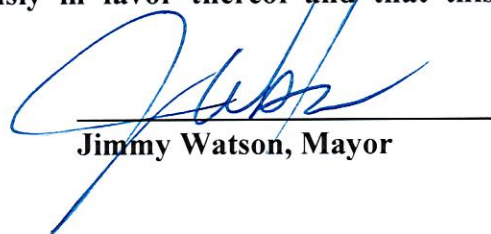
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

This ordinance was thereupon declared adopted on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023, by the City Council of the City of Walker, Louisiana, at the regular scheduled meeting at the City Hall in Walker, Louisiana, on said date, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted unanimously in favor thereof and that this ordinance has not been revoked or rescinded.

  
Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk