

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2023

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at Walker City Hall on Monday, September 11, 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 August 14, 2023.

With no comments or objections, a motion was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve/adopt the minutes for the August 14, 2023 council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The following candidates were present at the council meeting: Randy Delatte, Parish President; Aaron Ellis, House of Representatives District 95; Roger Wilder, House of Representatives District 71. The candidates introduced themselves and were allowed to briefly state their platform.

Financial Director, Mike Cotton, reviewed the July 2023 financial report before the mayor and council members. Total net assets for the period ending July 31, 2023 was \$1,978,398. Gas revenue decreased 3% and sales tax increased 5%.

Assistant Chief Kenath Black requested of the council the approval of two promotions at the Walker Police Department.

Officer James Craven has served at the Walker Police Department for two years. It is the recommendation of the department that Off. Craven be considered for promotion from Pfc. to Corporal.

A motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the promotion as requested.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENTS: None

Officer Justin Ballard served previously as a reserve and full-time officer in 2019. He was rehired in May 2023. It is the recommendation of the department that Off. Ballard be considered for promotion from Pfc. to Corporal.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the promotion as requested.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The recommendation for the full-time hire of Isaiah Chester was placed on hold.

Mr. Griffin read the Constitution Week Proclamation declaring September 17 – 23, 2023 as Constitution Week to commemorate the 236th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States. This proclamation was signed by Mayor Jimmy Watson and forwarded to the Halimah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

State Representative Buddy Mincey provided an overview of the 2023 fiscal session of the Louisiana Legislature. Rep. Mincey provided updates on the capital outlay and the funding of highway projects that are underway. Future projects include road widening, traffic relief and safety solutions.

Mr. Tom Pearce and Mr. Cullen Curole of the South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC) attended the council meeting to provide valuable information that may be beneficial to small business owners and non-profits that were affected in 2020 – 2021 in federally declared disaster areas. SCPDC is a part of the Restore Small Business Loan Program.

Mayor Watson presented Senator J. Rogers Pope with a key to the City of Walker. Senator Pope was recognized for his milestone achievements as an educator, a coach, superintendent of the Livingston Parish School System. He served as state representative from 2008-2020. He has been a member of the La. State Senate since 2020 to the present.

Additional Comments:

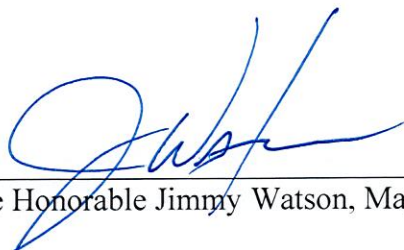
- The Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2023 @ Sidney Hutchinson Park.
- Photos were shown of the continued progress of the Animal Control building. Also, a new privacy fence has been placed around the public works yard. Jamie Etheridge commented on the overlay projects currently underway on Joe Stafford Rd, College St., both sides of Burgess, Lakeland Dr. in Three Lakes, Parkland Lane and Milton Road. Kresten Brown made additional comments on the road project on Aydell Lane. The projected finish date is September 30, 2023.

With no further business or comments to discuss, the motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adjourn the September 11, 2023, council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None


The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest: 
Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk