

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2024

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jimmy Watson followed by prayer led by Councilman Gary Griffin . Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, proceeded 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 minutes of the May 13, 2024 council meeting. With no comments or objections to adopting the minutes, a motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, presented to the council the April 2024 financial report. Total net profits for the period ending April 30, 2024 were \$2,084,187; sales tax increased 5.5% and gas revenue increased 22%.

A motion made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Cook, to lift the agenda and enter into public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Clark presented the Ordinance Directing the Renewal of the Levy and Collection of One-Half Percent Sales and Use Tax Within the City for a Period of Twenty-five Years Beginning April 1, 2025 [Ordinance 06-2024-01].

With there being no objections, a motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve Ordinance #06-2024-01.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Wales to close the public meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, presented for the council members consideration the Resolution Adopting Changes to the City of Walker Employee Handbook to Update Grievance Procedures and Family Medical Leave Sections.

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

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Etheridge presented for the council's consideration the Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of the Selection and Award of an Engineering Service in Connection with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, Taylor Bayou Regional Improvement Project.

A motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the resolution as presented designating Forte and Tablada, Inc. as the engineers of record.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Etheridge presented for the council's consideration the Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of the Selection and Award of Consulting Services in Connection with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, Taylor Bayou Regional Improvement Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the resolution as presented designating Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixon, Inc. as consultants.

Assistant Chief of Police, Kenath Black, recommended to the council full-time hire candidate, Raul Sandoval. Mr. Sandoval is post-certified and had previously served at the Walker Police Department in 2020.

Upon the motion made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Ms. Major, Mr. Sandoval was hired as a full-time police officer.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

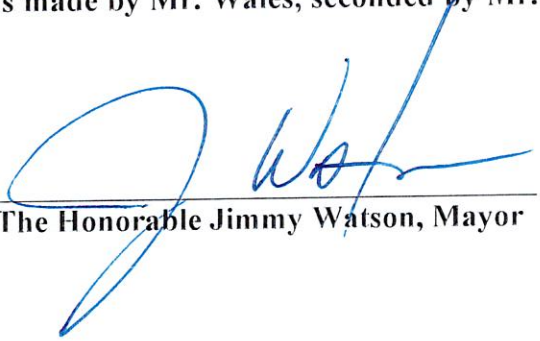
ABSENT: None

Additional Comments

- ◆ Mayor Watson introduced Thomas Townsend to the council. Mr. Townsend was hired on June 10, 2024 in Permits. Mr. Townsend has work experience as a building official, specializing in code enforcement. He has experience with the infrastructure of stormwater/sewer systems (MS4) which promises to be an added asset to the city.
- ◆ Ms. Major commented on the success of the Spay and Neuter Clinic held at the Community Center held June 7th-9th. She reported that there were 201 animals treated. She expressed her gratitude to Pet Care of Ponchatoula, Walker Police Department and other volunteers who helped make this another successful clinic.
- ◆ Mayor Watson provided an update on the progress of the new Animal Control Building. It was reported that it is approximately 95% complete.
- ◆ The 2024 4th of July celebration will be held on Saturday, June 29th, at Sidney Hutchinson Park.

- ◆ Parks and Recreation will host two (2) summer camps this year for kids ranging in age from 6 – 12 years old. *Session #1, June 24-28; Session #2, July 22-26.* Interested parties can register online or contact the Parks and Recreation office.
- ◆ The Moving Vietnam Memorial-The Wall that Heals will be in the City of Walker September 12th-15th, 2024. The occasion will be commemorated with other planned events @ Sidney Hutchinson Park.
- ◆ Paul Roberts asked about the status of the Magnolia Road Project. Chad Bacas responded with an update.
- ◆ Mayor Watson reminded everyone of the special council meeting scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2024 @ 6:00 PM.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn the June 10, 2024 council meeting.


The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest:


Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk