

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2021

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson and Council members: David Clark, Eric Cook, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major. Absent was council member Richard Wales.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Watson. Prayer was rendered by Mr. Griffin followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2021 council meeting.

Yeas: Major, Cook, Griffin, Clark

Nays: None

Absent: Wales

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, presented the February 2021 Financial Report. The net profit before transfers for the period ending 02/28/2021 was \$1,591,775. After presenting the February 2021 financial report, Mike Cotton addressed the council members regarding the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. This annual questionnaire must be completed by City of Walker elected officials. Once completed, the elected officials must sign and return the questionnaire directly to our auditors, Hannis T. Bourgeois.

Mayor Watson informed the council members and general public that the National League of Cities Service Line Program could not attend tonight's meeting due to flight complications. They are tentatively scheduled to be on the May 2021 agenda.

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

Yeas: Griffin, Clark, Major, Cook

Nays: None

Absent: Wales

The Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, addressed the city council to approve **Ordinance No. 04-2021-01** to create a new water customer category in accordance with the revised statute. This will allow the Community Development District (CDD) for water utility services that will be managed by the City of Walker. This affects residential customers outside Walker city limits. Residents within the CDD will be billed by the City of Walker. The CDD will add an upcharge on top of the normal rate. The request must go before the Livingston Parish Council to approve the rate set by the Public Service Commission. The City of Walker will assess a 10% administrative fee each month for management and billing.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve **Ordinance No. 04-2021-01** as presented.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: Wales

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

Yeas: Major, Griffin, Clark, Cook

Nays: None

Absent: Wales

Wastewater Plant Supervisor, Wendy Montalbano, provided a comprehensive review of the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP), which is an Environment Audit of our wastewater treatment system. This annual audit is submitted to DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality). This audit determines the level of efficiency of our plant operations. Once completed, a grade is given to rate our system. The lower the grade (score) the better the efficiency. The City of Walker is rated in the 15% percentile.

It was motioned by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Clark, to adopt the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP).

Yeas: Clark, Major, Griffin, Cook

Nays: None

Absent: Wales

A resolution was presented by Jamie Etheridge requesting authorization to declare City of Walker vehicles surplus property. The sales will be handled through LAMATS.

Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Cook, this resolution was approved.

Yeas: Cook, Clark, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: Wales

Under agenda item #9 for additional comments, Mayor Watson stated that there will possibly be a special meeting scheduled for next Monday, April 19, 2021, regarding a corporate endeavor meeting on drainage. Jamie Etheridge provided additional information concerning this endeavor. This project is spearheaded by State Representative Buddy Mineey. Kresten Brown of Forte and Tablada will also be a part of this endeavor.

Kresten Brown also provided a progress report on the Elm and Brown Street bridge projects. Tammy Payton asked why stone wing walls were not placed on both sides of the bridge. Kresten Brown stated that FEMA approved the stone wing walls for the north side due to erosion. The repairs to the opposite side of the Brown Street bridge only warranted the use riprap and stones.

Mr. Clark addressed the issue of the drainage impact study to Jamie Etheridge.

Mr. Paul Roberts asked about servitudes along West Colyell. Kresten Brown provided an update.


Mary Johnson addressed the council asking about the process to request bulk trash pick through Waste Management. Jamie informed Ms. Johnson that the City of Walker is the customer for Waste Management. The proper procedure is to request bulk pickup services through the Department of Public Works office. A ticket will be created and submitted to Waste Management for scheduling. A specific address must be given before the request can be processed. Ms. Laura Felder also addressed the council members regarding the bulk trash throughout her neighborhood. She explained that she had called several times but, the debris still remained alongside of the road at various locations.

With no further business to discuss, the April 12, 2021 Walker City Council meeting was adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


MAYOR JIMMY WATSON

ATTEST:


Tammy Payton - Municipal Clerk