

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2022

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Jimmy Watson called the meeting to order. Councilman James Cook led the meeting in prayer. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, followed with the roll call.

The following council members were present: David Clark, Eric Cook, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major. Council member Richard Wales was absent.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2022 council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Wales

Mayor Watson recognized the Walker Bidy Basketball Program which is the only Bidy Basketball Program still active in Livingston Parish. A slideshow provided a pictorial display of the program's participants throughout the years. Former council member, Wayne Carter, brought the Bidy Basketball Program to Walker's Parks and Recreations of the City of Walker in 1976. Mayor Watson presented Mr. Carter with a plaque recognizing his dedication to the success of the program and acknowledging his 28 years of service as an official of the City of Walker.

Jamie Etheridge recognized the supervisors and employees from the Walker Animal Shelter and the Permits Department. Mr. Etheridge introduced Mary Gray, the supervisor of the Walker Animal Shelter. Mr. Etheridge commended Ms. Gray on the progressive expansion of the shelter under her supervision since 2012. Ms. Major added that Ms. Gray is responsible for a successful adoption program; she works very hard with animal rescues, and partners with Pet Smart. Property has been purchased to build another animal shelter. Next, Ms. Gray brought forth her team of three whom she credits as the true backbone of the shelter. She commented that she has a wonderful team with whom she has a great working relationship.

Next, Mr. Etheridge introduced Nancy Kimble of the Permits Department. Ms. Kimble has been employed with the city since November 2007, originally hired as a building inspector. Later she became a Certified Floodplain Manager and Certified Permits Technician. Ms. Kimble was promoted to Building Official and the Supervisor of the Permits Department in 2017 after Mayor Watson took office. Ms. Kimble proceeded to introduce her staff of two. She expressed her appreciation for the experience and competence her staff exemplifies daily. Ms. Kimble acknowledged Mr. Gary Glascock in his absence. Mr. Glascock is a part-time certified building inspector who has been an asset to the city since May 2019. He will be leaving the city's employ May 2022.

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, came forth with the February 2022 financial report. Mr. Cotton reported a net profit [before transfers] of \$1,632,879. This entails an 26% increase in sales tax year over year and a 2% increase in gas revenue year over year. The city's annual audit is scheduled to begin Monday, April 18, 2022. The March 2022 financial report will be completed within a week.

Councilman David Clark introduced an ordinance for a budget adjustment to the dump truck purchased February 24, 2022. This ordinance will be open for public hearing at the May 2022 council meeting.

Councilman David Clark introduced an ordinance for the Voter Districts Apportionment Plan Utilizing Data from 2022 Federal Decennial Census that will be open for public hearing at the May 2022 council meeting.

It was motioned by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Clark to enter into a public hearing to discuss the ordinance to rezone 1.272 acres, TRACT CAP-1-A-2-B-Sec 25-6-3 from R70 to C1.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, and Major

NAYS: None

ASBSENT: Wales

Ms. Major initially made the council aware that the matter had already gone before the Planning and Zoning Commission, February 22, 2022. A resolution was made to recommend to the Walker City Council the approval to rezone this property. Jamie Etheridge requested that Mr. & Mrs. Justin Cox come before the mayor and members of the council to further state their intended use for the property. The purpose is to provide a batting cage primarily for the youth of Walker. It will be a private use facility. They plan to build a metal building for indoor activity. Questions were posed by city attorney, Bobby King to establish clarification of the property's use and address any possible concerns the residents on Ball Park may have. Further discussion regarding servitude and traffic was brought forth. The Cox's reiterated their wishes and stressed that they do not plan to sell anything at the facility. They agreed to the additional restrictions if either or both were to sell the property individually or as an LLC. If the use of the property were to change, the matter would go back before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

It was motioned by Mr. Cook, seconded by Ms. Major, to approve **Ordinance #04-2022-01** to rezone the 1.272 acres, TRACT CAP-1-A-2-B-Sec 25-6-3 from R70 to C1 with proposed restrictions.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, and Major

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Wales

Upon motion made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Cook, to close the public meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, and Major

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Wales

Council member, Scarlet Major, read the **2022 Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation** in observance of April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, supported by the Mayor and citizens of Walker, Louisiana.

In observance of **PARLIMENTARY LAW MONTH**, Mayor Watson read the proclamation declaring April 2022 as **PARLIAMENARY LAW MONTH** encouraging all citizens to bring parliamentary leadership to organizations and societies with which they are involved.


Additional Comments:

- Mayor Watson introduced Joe McLin as the City of Walker's new Director of Public Works.

With no further business to discuss, the April 11, 2022 council meeting was adjourned.

Attest:


Tammy Payton - Municipal Clerk


Mayor Jimmy Watson