

CITY OF WALKER
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

July 9, 2018

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on July 9, 2018 at 6:00 Pm. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson, Council members David Clark, Eric Cook, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major and Richard Wales.

Mr. David Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to adopt the minutes from the June 11, 2018 meeting as presented.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scarlett Major to adopt the minutes from the June 25, 2018 special council meeting as presented.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Sam Nixon, the new supervisor for the water operations, presented the DPW report indicating there has been an increase in the city wide flushing program. The water well operating parameters have been reset to create a greater rate of turnover in the elevated towers, thus reducing water age in the system, resulting in a significantly reduced number of brown water calls. A power consumption analysis was performed for all lift stations and water wells. We are now able to detect motor and pump deficiencies prior to failure. Significant improvements have been made to part of the water system that services Salt Dome Road, thus increasing the water pressure in that area. A 100,000-gallon ground storage tank and auxiliary pressure tank has been constructed and is in operation for the Industrial Park area. Mr. Nixon went on to thank all of the employees in the water/wastewater, street and gas departments for all of their hard work stating they were all very valuable assets to the City of Walker.

Mr. Jamie Etheridge informed the council that the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry had conducted an annual inspection of the animal shelter. The City received a report indicating the shelter had passed inspection and was in compliance with state law. Mr. Etheridge thanked everyone at the shelter for a job well done.

Mr. Jamie Etheridge reported that Fire District 4 had recently undergone a study to determine their classification. The results indicated the fire district had improved from a Class 4 to a Class 5. Mr. Etheridge introduced and commended Chief James Wascom for a job well done. Fire Chief Wascom introduced his Assistant Chief Mr. Trey Jackson and thanked all of the Firefighters for the jobs they do. Chief Wascom also thanked the City of Walker water department for the part they play with the operations of the fire department. Chief Wascom explained that 40% of the grade they get toward their classification has to do with the water system.

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to approve a city credit card be issued to Mr. Dee-Dee (Deirdre) Ockman, the new purchasing agent, with a credit limit of \$10,000.00.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. David Clark to adopt a resolution naming the Livingston Parish News as the official journal for the City of Walker.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chief David Addison presented the police report indicating 807 citations, 1297 calls for service and 115 arrests were performed in the month of May 2018.

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin to approve the request from Chief Addison to promote Officer Daniel Sylve to Corporal.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

Mr. Richard Wales made a motion to hire Mr. Jonathan Scott, a Reserve Officer, as a Part-time Officer for the Walker Police Department per Chief Addison's request.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

During Public Comments, Mrs. Carolyn Monroe, a citizen who lives in the Ball Park Subdivision commented on the situation with the park of vehicles during the 4th of July fireworks event. Vehicles were parking on both sides of the road, blocking drive ways, in yards. One of the main issues was that in an event of an emergency there was no way for an emergency vehicle to get in or for the citizens to get out. Mayor Watson expressed that he was aware of the concerns and he shared them. He stated that hopefully by the time another event was held at the park there would be a shuttle program in place. The City would be working toward resolving this issue.

Mrs. Monroe also expressed concerns about a rumor that there was a Dollar General going to be built on the corner of Ball Park Rd. and Walker North Rd. Her main concern was that of traffic. She indicated that traffic was horrible at that intersection already and could not handle additional traffic as this was the only way into and out of their subdivision. Mayor Watson assured her that traffic was also a concern of the City. Dollar General was only conducting a preliminary study and nothing was final. Before anything was final there was a lot that had to be done such as a meeting with DOTD about the traffic impact, drainage impact study, Planning and Zoning meeting as well as Public Meeting at Council meeting, that the citizens had the right to speak at, so forth and so on.

Mrs. Mary Maiden asked what was being done about the drainage on Buck Perkins Land, East Rail Road and at the Bridge on Keith Street. There was a blockage at the crossing at Keith Street. The City got with the engineers and discovered that the pipes on the railroad side are much bigger than the pipes at Keith, East and Brown which are causing a bottle neck problem with the drainage. Kreston Brown with Forte and Tablada indicated that the plans are almost finished for review to correct this problem. Basically, the City will be replacing 3- 36" culverts with 2- 72" arched culverts, thus allowing more water to travel through and reduce the flooding.

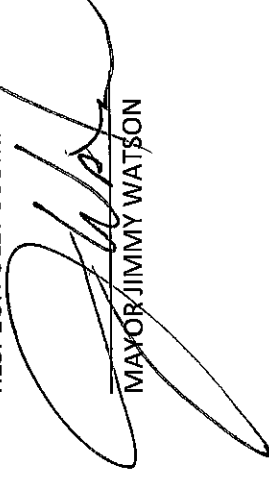
There being no additional comments and no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Richard Wales and seconded by Mr. Eric Cook to adjourn.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

ATTEST:


Myra Streeter, Clerk
MMC; CMA; CAA

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED


MAYOR JIMMY WATSON