

# CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2021

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson and Council members: Eric Cook, David Clark, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major, and Richard Wales.

The meeting was called to order with prayer rendered by Mayor Jimmy Watson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2021 council meeting.

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

The April 2021 financial report was presented by Finance Director, Mike Cotton. It was reported that the net profit for the period ending 04/30/2021 was \$1,071,741. Mr. Cotton reported that the increase was due to a 19% increase in sales taxes and favorable revenue in the Gas Department. Mr. Cotton informed the council that the May 2021 financial report should be ready by Thursday, June 17, 2021 if anyone wish to stop in to review.

Ms. Major introduced the ordinance for a budget adjustment to 3/lighting at Sidney Hutchinson ballpark—Fields 1, A, and B.

Upon motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, the city council meeting entered into a public hearing to amend the budget for the Whispering Springs regulator station and to adopt the 2021 Millage.

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

Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge presented before the council the recommendation to increase the budget by \$50,000 for the Whispering Springs regulator station. It was originally budgeted for \$40,000 in the Enterprise Capital Outlay. However, the cost to increase capacity for the gas system, add servitudes, and to make other needed upgrades that could potentially accommodate up to 1300 new homes in the future.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the increase to the Whispering Springs budget by \$50,000.

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

Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, presented to the City Council the 2021 District Revenue Projection for the City of Walker. She advised council members that the millage rate of 2.230 is a roll forward of the 2020 millage rate. It has a projected taxable value of \$60,303,560 with a projected revenue yield of \$134,476.94 in property taxes. There will be no increase in property taxes unless there

are increases in property value. It was requested by Ms. Payton that the Walker City Council adopt the 2021 Millage Resolution, Millage Key **5153001**, for the millage rate **0.002230**.

It was upon motion made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Ms. Major, to approve the resolution to adopt the 2021 millage.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

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

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Jamie Etheridge requested the approval of a resolution to appoint Ms. Dee-Dee Ockman as the purchasing representative for the LAMATS Administered Cooperative Purchasing Joint Commission (LACPC).

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Ms. Major, to approve the resolution to appoint Ms. Ockman as the LACPC commission representative.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

The resolution for the Livingston Parish Sewer District was tabled until July 2021. Mr. Etheridge informed the council that the city was waiting to receive information from the Louisiana Rural Water Association which would be needed to proceed with the request for a resolution.

It was motioned by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Clark, to table the Livingston Parish Sewer District agreement.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Jamie Etheridge presented before the council a request for a resolution to update the 2018 Safe Routes to School Project application. The area will encompass the Burgess Avenue at Westside Jr. High School to the old Walker High School parking lot. The sidewalks will extend to Peak Lane, Walker High School and ultimately the Northshore Technical Community College. The initial request did not make the application process. The updated application and proposed resolution will be renamed 2021 Safe Routes to Public Places Program.

Kresten Brown of Forte and Tablada addressed the council to further elaborate that the resolution is to acquire permission to enter into the application process. Mr. Brown informed the mayor and council members that the City of Walker will assume full responsibility and liability after the project is completed.

It was motioned by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Submission of the 2021 Safe Routes to Public Places Program Application.

Yeas: Cook, Clark, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Jamie Etheridge presented before the council a request for a resolution to update the City of Walker access to lock boxes #60, #208, #114 at Capital One Bank, Walker Branch. This resolution authorizes Capital One Bank to remove old users and add the new maintenance users: Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk, Jamie Etheridge, Chief of Operations, and Scarlett Major, Mayor Pro Tem. The resolution will bring the City of Walker in compliance with the current security measures set forth under the terms and conditions of Capital One Bank.

It motioned was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Access to City of Walker Lockboxes at Capital One Bank, Walker Branch.

Yeas: Cook, Clark, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Nays: None

Nancy Kimble represented a request to the council to approve the Livingston Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for 2021 Resolution. This resolution signifies the City of Walker commitment to take necessary actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from the impacts of future hazards and disasters. The City of Walker will also maintain its CRS rating (Community Rating System) for floodplain management practices.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve.

Yeas: Cook, Clark, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Etheridge requested of the council to approve the resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. The National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Program introduced the proposal before the council at the May 2021 council meeting. As stated in the agreement, it is for marketing purposes only. The City of Walker will not receive any revenue.

It was motioned by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the proposed resolution to enter into this agreement.

Yeas: Cook, Clark, Griffin, Wales

Nays: Major

Absent: None

Hannis T. Bourgeois auditor, Brian Mautner, presented to the council an unmodified, clean opinion of the review of the 2020 Annual Audit. Council members were provided audited financial statements of audit findings through December 31, 2020. Trey Sanders also briefly addressed the council regarding the audit.

A motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, approve the 2020 Annual Audit findings as presented.

Yeas: Cook, Clark, Griffin, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Jimmy Watson made comments regarding the City of Walker upcoming Fourth of July Celebration scheduled for Saturday, July 3, 2021 at Sidney Hutchinson Park. The public is invited to attend. Activities are scheduled to kick-off at 5:00 p.m. which will include a live band and concessions. Fireworks will begin 8:30/9:00 p.m.

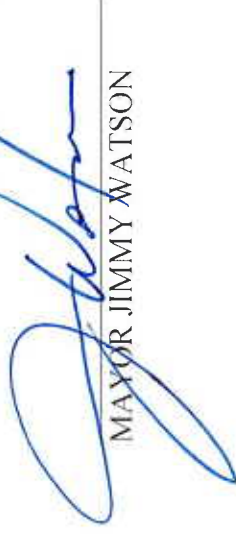
Additionally, the ribbon cutting for the Safe House has been scheduled for June 30, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. Upcoming ribbon cuttings will be announced for the Our Lady of the Lake exercise equipment area and the opening of the new children playground.

With no further business matters to discuss, a motion was by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adjourn.

ATTEST:

  
Tammy Payton - Municipal Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

  
MAYOR JIMMY WATSON