

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2021

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson and Council members: Eric Cook, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major, and Richard Wales. Absent was council member David Clark.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Ms. Major, to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2021 council meeting.

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

The March 2021 financial report was presented by Finance Director, Mike Cotton . It was reported that the net profit for the period ending 03/31/2021 was \$1,441,933. Mr. Cotton reported that our net profit was the result of strong gas sales and sales tax that increased 9%.

Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge introduced the National League of Cities Regional Account Director, Emilie Zalfini, to the council and public body. Ms. Zalfini provided a comprehensive overview of the warranty services NLC Service Line Warranty Program by HomeServe. The program provides maintenance of water and sewer line repairs that are not a part of the public infrastructure of a municipality. This warranty program is designed to be beneficial to both cities and residential property owners. NLC requested that the City of Walker enter into a marketing agreement only. If agreed upon by the council, it would be approved by resolution.

Mr. Griffin introduced an ordinance to amend the budget for the Whispering Springs Regular Station.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Wales, to enter into a public hearing to amend the Unified Development Code, Chapter 6/Commercial Parking Spaces.

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

Upon motion by Wales, seconded by Major, to approve the Unified Development Code, Chapter 6/Commercial Parking Spaces [**Ordinance #05-2021-01**]. This amendment will help future commercial developments by bringing the city up to unified standards which are less restrictive.

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

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

Yeas: Griffin, Wales, Cook, Major

Nays: None

Absent: Clark

Chief David Addison presented before the council a request for the hire of two new officers, Spencer Roche, a full-time candidate and Octavia Felder, a reserve officer candidate.

It was motioned by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the request for the Walker Police Department new hires.

Yeas: Cook, Major, Griffin, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: Clark

Items brought forth under additional comments [Agenda item #8]:

Jody Stanford, Water Service Director, provided sewer updates regarding drainage, sewer main problems. They are using smoke testing to address old infrastructure materials such as crunched pipes, infiltration, and manhole covers on Travis and Johnson Street and in other locations throughout the city. Mr. Stanford and Wendy Montalbano, both stressed that these problems are more prevalent during heavy rainfall events that occur during short periods of time. These rain events cause backups and overflow. They reassured the council and general public that the Water/Sewer Department is making every effort to repair and/or replace damaged materials. Kresten Brown of Forte Talbada verified that the City of Walker is eligible for a \$50,000 grant from the Sewer Infiltration Vulnerability Study through a Lake Ponchartrain impact program.

Mayor Watson reported that the First Responders Monument Fund has collected thirty thousand dollars [\$30,000] in donations.

After commenting on the success of 2021 Spring Fest held at Sidney Hutchinson Park in April, Mayor Watson announced that there are plans for a 2021 Fall Fest in October.

Lastly, Mayor Watson reminded everyone of the New City Hall ribbon cutting on Friday, May 14, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

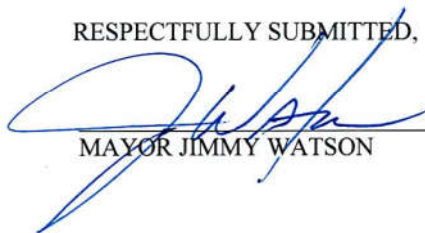
With no further business to discuss, it was motioned by Mr. Wales, seconded by Ms. Major to adjourn the May 10, 2021 Walker City Council meeting.

Yeas: Major, Cook, Griffin, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: Clark

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



MAYOR JIMMY WATSON

ATTEST:


Tammy Payton – Municipal Clerk