

CITY OF WALKER
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

March 11, 2019

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on March 11, 2019 at 6:00PM. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson, Council Members David Clark, Eric Cook, Gary Griffin and Scarlett Major. Council Member Richard Wales was absent.

Mr. David Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook, to adopt the minutes from the February 11, 2019 council meeting as presented.

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

Mr. Jamie Etheridge, Chief of Operations, presented the DPW report. Mr. Etheridge introduced Mr. Larry Williams, gas department supervisor. Mr. Williams has 39 years of gas experience. He has been with the City of Walker for 26 years. Mr. Williams serves on the executive board for the Louisiana Municipal Gas Association (LMGA), he is the Secretary for the Louisiana Gas Association Board (LGA) and also serves on the Dig Law Advisory Committee for LA One Call. Mr. Etheridge stated the City of Walker has the second largest municipal gas system in the state, which consists of 307 miles of distribution pipe, 10,300 gas customers, 13 regulator stations, 3 pipeline supply taps and 10 cathodic protections sites. The gas department operates with 11 employees. Duties performed include installing meter and lines, check for leaks, non-pay disconnects, reconnects, pressure checks, odorant checks, located lines for contractors that will be digging within right-a-ways, maintenance, and emergency repairs. All employees within the department are certified except the 3, who are new hires. They will be certified within a year.

Mr. Mike Cotton, Finance Director, presented the Council with the financial reports.

Mr. David Clark introduced an ordinance to be set for a public hearing at the April 8, 2019 meeting pertaining to annexing 5.0 acres and lot 3-A at 27000 Walker South Rd. belonging to John and Martha Daniel.

Mrs. Scarlett Major introduced an ordinance to be set for a public hearing at the April 8, 2019 meeting pertaining to amending the City of Walker Unified Development Code.

Mr. David Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin, to enter into a public hearing.

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

Following a public hearing Mr. Gary Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook, to adopt an ordinance authorizing the purchase of 4.72 acres of immovable property located within the 13000 block of Aydell Lane, being situated in Section 36, Township 6 South, Range 3 East Greensburg Land District located in Livingston Parish, Louisiana, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the sale agreement by and between the City of Walker and Vendor, John Blount Investments, LLC.

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

Following a public hearing Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin, to adopt an ordinance amending the 2019 Annual Budget #1 for the purpose of increasing general fund /capital outlay expenditures by Six-Hundred- Eighty -Thousand dollars (\$680,000.) for the purpose of purchasing 4.72 acres of property located on Aydell Lane from John Blount Investments, LLC.

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

Following a public hearing, Mr. Gary Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook, to adopt an ordinance amending the 2019 Annual Budget #2 for the purpose of increasing general fund /capital outlay expenditures by Six-Million-Five Hundred-Thousand dollars (\$6,500,000) to acquire, construct, furnish a building to serve as City Hall for the City of Walker.

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

Following a public hearing, Mr. David Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scarlett Major, to adopt an ordinance amending the 2019 Annual Budget #3 for the purpose of increasing general fund expenditures for annual dues and subscription for the Police Department in the amount of Ten-Thousand dollars (\$10,000) acquire the Lexipol Annual Law Enforcements Policy Manual and Updates.

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

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook, to end the public hearings and return to the regular agenda.

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

Assistant Chief Kenath Black presented 3 candidates for hire at the request of Chief David Addison.

Mrs. David Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook, to approve the hiring of Jonathan Oliver as a full-time officer with the Walker Police Department.

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

Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin, to approve the hiring of Justin Ballard as a reserve office with the Walker Police Department.

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

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook, to approve the hiring of Samuel Nixon as a reserve officer with the Walker Police Department.

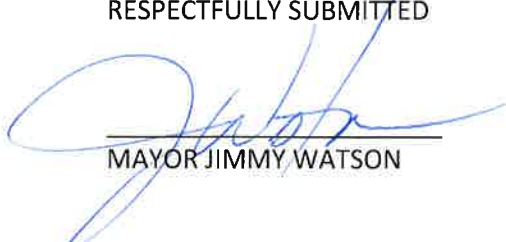
Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin and Major
Nays: None
Absent: Wales

During public comments, Mrs. Mary Maiden expressed concerns regarding prioritizing projects. She indicated there were projects that have not been completed due to a lack of available funds and now the City was taking on the cost associated with purchasing land and building a new City Hall. Mayor Watson assured Mrs. Maiden that things were getting done, explaining that several abated properties had been cleaned up and the bridges she was concerned about are being funded through state or federal funds. When using state and federal monies, you have to use their time line which in most cases do not line up with the City's. Mayor Watson explained that certain funds can only be used for certain things. Mayor Watson extended an invitation to her to come and sit down with him so they could address any of her concerns.

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

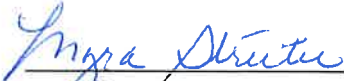
Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: Wales

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



MAYOR JIMMY WATSON

ATTEST:



Myra Streeter, Clerk
MMC; CMA; CAA