

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2021

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, October 11, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jimmy Watson followed with prayer led by Richard Wales. Mayor Watson invited all present to remain standing for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States. The Municipal Clerk then called the roll.

The following council members were present: David Clark, Eric Cook, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major and Richard Wales.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2021 council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The August 2021 finance report was presented by Finance Director, Mike Cotton. Mr. Cotton reported that the city's net profit for the period ending August 31, 2021 was \$898,202. Natural gas revenue was up by 15% and sales tax increased by 11%. Mr. Cotton announced that he is currently working on the 2022 budget. He stated that the 2022 budget is close to completion.

Upon motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, the council meeting entered into a public hearing to discuss the 2021 Budget Amendment No. 6 for the Natural Gas Regulator /near Woodside Drive, Hwy 190.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

After a brief discussion, it was then motioned by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve **Ordinance 10-2021-01** to increase the enterprise fund capital outlay \$275,000 for the construction of a new natural gas regulator station as proposed.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

It was motioned by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to close the public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Watson announced the upcoming events: Veterans Parade scheduled Saturday, October 30, 2021 beginning at 11:00 a.m. The day's event following the parade will continue at Sidney Hutchinson Park for Fall Fest. Activities will include music from a live band, food, farmers market and a mechanical bull. There will also be a Pumpkin Patch located behind the fishing pond that is free to the public. Mayor Watson also confirmed that Halloween will be observed in accordance with our city ordinance on October 31st between the hours of 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m., which falls on a Sunday for 2021.

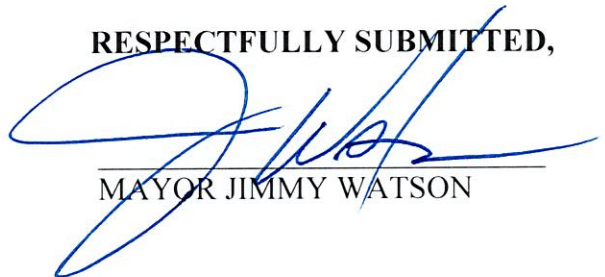
Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, addressed the members of the council to preface the City-wide Drainage Impact Study completed by Forte and Tablada. The study was to evaluate the current drainage infrastructure to address growing flooding concerns in our area. The study focused on the Three Lakes Subdivision, Pleasant Ridge Subdivision, and Dumplin Creek. Mr. Etheridge asked that questions be reserved during the PowerPoint presentation by the civil engineer for Forte and Tablada, Kresten Brown. A sign-up sheet was located in the rear of the court room for anyone interested in scheduling an appointment to discuss their specific concerns. Mr. Etheridge disclaim that the City of Walker is only responsible for roadside drainage. State and federal highways, Gravity District 5, Louisiana Department of Transportation, and Livingston Parish Public Works Department does not fall within the jurisdiction of Walker city limits except in cases where there are drainage occurrences that are adjacent to or encroach at our corporate city limits. The City of Walker is willing to work collaboratively with these other entities to resolve flooding and drainage issues.

Kresten Brown presented before the Walker Council the City Wide Impact Study. The slide-show presentation provided a very comprehensive overview of the areas that are more severely impacted by heavy rainfall events and tail water affects which causes flooding. The ditches and canals do not have the capacity retain or prevent the backflow of water into these areas. Mr. Brown stated that after extensive surveys and modeling, the recommendations to the city entails thorough inspections, upgrades of coverts, the widening of ditches and canals to increase water capacity. Forte and Tablada also provided mounted displays which allowed an opportunity for closer, visual inspection of the areas addressed in the presentation. There were a limited number of impact study copies available. However, Mr. Brown stated that more could be provided.

Following the presentation, there were numerous comments, questions, and inquiries from members of the council as well as concerned citizens. Mayor Watson reiterated that anyone interested in further discussions pertaining to this matter are encouraged to stay after the council meeting and/or add their names to the sign-up sheet.

With no further business to discuss, the city council meeting for October 11, 2021 ended. Afterwards, it was motioned by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adjourn.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



MAYOR JIMMY WATSON

ATTEST:



Tammy Payton - Municipal Clerk