

CITY OF WALKER
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

June 12, 2017

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on June 12, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson, council members David Clark, Eric Cook, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major and Richard Wales.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Mr. Richard Wales.

Mrs. Scarlett Major led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. David Clark to adopt the minutes from the May 8, 2017 council meeting as presented.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Jimmy Watson announced the City wide clean up, stating that the City had crews going throughout the entire City collecting trash. There are three dumpster locations in the City for trash collection, one at field #5 on Ball Park Road, one at the City's lay-down yard on Ball Park Road and one on the back-parking lot of the City Hall. Mr. Eric Cook requested the City get another dumpster to be placed on Rail Road Ave. Mayor Watson stated that citizens of Walker and organizations such as civic groups, church groups, ball teams etc. are encouraged to participate on Saturday, June 17th from 8:00 to 12:00 to help clean up our City.

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion to lift the agenda to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire, for the 2016 Audit year. Mr. Gary Griffin seconded the motion.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Richard Wales made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the 2016 Audit as presented.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Eric Cook made motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to return to the regular agenda.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

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

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to approve a resolution amending the City of Walker Handbook pertaining to the dress code.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. David Clark to approve a resolution amending the City of Walker Handbook pertaining to meals and travel expense, bringing them in line with the State of Louisiana's policy.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Richard Wales made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook to adopt a resolution approving the State of LA / DOTD Walker Interchange Lighting Agreement, Project # H.012503.5 and Federal Aid Project # H012503; which is for the lighting around the newly developed round about areas.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Jamie Etheridge updated the Council and citizens on the railroad closure at Sunset Lane and the improvements to the Ballard Street Bridge. Mr. Etheridge indicated that CN Railroad has given the City a 6-month extension on getting the work completed on Sunset Lane. At the end of 6 months the crossing will be closed regardless of the state of Sunset Lane. Mr. Etheridge stated the City is working with Forte and Tablada as well as the Parish to make sure this work is completed within the time frame give.

Mr. Gary Griffin introduced Budget Amendment #4 Ordinance to be set for a public hearing at the July 10, 2017 meeting.

Following a public hearing and after all comments were made, Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin to approve a resolution adopting the millage rate of 2.20 for the tax year 2017.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

During the public hearing for the rezoning of property belonging to Mr. Joel Butler from R-50 to RC it became apparent that several members of the audience had questions and stated that the people in that area of the community had no idea this was happening. There were 6 different people with as many or more lots that had been approved by the planning and zoning boards for rezoning of their

property from R-50 to RC. All criteria for rezoning had been met along with the criteria of publications. The council felt that in order to have all questions answered regarding the proposed rezoning project, a special meeting would be held as an informational meeting only. A date would be decided and all party would be informed.

Mr. David Clark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to table all rezoning public hearings on the agenda until the July 10, 2017 meeting, which would be after the informational meeting regarding the rezoning.

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

Chief David Addison presented the police report indicating that 434 citations issued, 1145 calls for service and 79 arrests were performed during the month of April 2017.

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eric Cook to approve Chief Addison's request to promote Officer Mitchell Fouse to Sergeant.

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

Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to approve Chief Addison's request to hire Mr. Bailey Newsom as a part time officer with the Police Department.


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

During additional comments, Mr. Tommy Rae had questions regarding the moving of Travis Street for the proposed project and stressed his concerns of the traffic in Walker particular exiting off of the interstate, where traffic backs up a mile or more off the shoulder of the interstate. Mr. Rae was informed that the moving of Travis Street would be at the developer's expense and Lt. Deontology Williams addressed his concerns regarding traffic.

There being no additional comments and no additional business to discuss, Mr. Richard Wales made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scarlett Major 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