

CITY OF WALKER
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

August 23, 2016

6:00 P.M.

An emergency meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on August 23, 2016 at 6:00pm. Present were Mayor Rick Ramsey, Council Members Eric Cook, Jonathan Davis, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major and Paul Roberts.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Mrs. Myra Streeter.

Mayor Rick Ramsey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to the emergency situation with the flooding, Mr. Jonathan Davis made a motion seconded by Mr. Eric Cook to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Parish of Livingston on the storm debris removal as well as the monitoring services.

Yeas: Cook, Davis, and Major

Nays: None

Absent: Griffin and Roberts

Mr. Eric Cook made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scarlett Major to approve a resolution to temporarily wave all permits fees for the repair, renovation, demolition or construction of structures damaged by the recent flooding, as well as waving Entergy permit fees. This resolution also allows for recreational vehicles such as campers to be used as temporary housing for up to 6 months from date of resolution as long as progress is being made toward rebuilding and refurbishing the affected dwelling. The waiver of fees applies to the period between August 12, 2016 to September 12, 2016.

Yeas: Cook, Davis, Griffin, Major and Roberts

Nays: None

Absent: None

During additional comments, Mr. Jonathan Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gary Griffin to allow the Mayor to enter into a contract with a company that will assist the city with the FEMA disaster recovery effort.

Yeas: Cook, Davis, Griffin, Major and Roberts

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Ramsey made mention that regardless of what was said in the new media, the City of Walker water system was never under a boil advisory.

Mayor Ramsey indicated that the billing for the utility services would not be altered in any way. Bills due at this time were for the previous month. If need be the billing for the period of the storm would be addressed at the next council meeting and a decision made at that time.

Mayor Ramsey asked each council member to address any questions or concerns that have been asked of them.

Mr. Gary Griffin questioned the curfew time for the City. Mayor Ramsey stated that the police were not enforcing the curfew until 10:00, but that the police could stop individuals and inquire as to their activities. Livingston Parish curfew is 12:00 midnight to 6:00am, the City follows the same.

Mr. Jonathan Davis inquired about trash removal and temporary housing. Mayor Ramsey addressed both issues stating that if people didn't want to wait for the debris contractors to remove the pile of debris then they could pay to have it hauled off. Mayor Ramsey also stated that he had been in communication with Congressman Garrett Graves and FEMA was rethinking their position on temporary housing.

Mr. Paul Roberts asked about looting. Mayor Ramsey indicated that there were 4 individuals from Baton Rouge who started looting as the water came up. They were able to catch 2 of them and charge them. They were unable to book them into jail due to the jail flooding.

Mayor Ramsey asked if Finance Director, Cindy Breaux had anything she wanted to say. Mrs. Breaux and Mr. Fred Raiford indicated that any Capital Expenditures that were not committed to are on hold.

Mr. Gary Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scarlett Major to place a moratorium on all new construction permits for 30 days. All permits already in process or schedules for inspection are to be completed. The moratorium on new construction will be revisited after the 30-day period.

Yeas: Cook, Davis, Griffin, Major and Roberts

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Ramsey stated that the city had entered into an agreement with the Louisiana Humane Society and the American Human Society to help with the animals that have been picked up throughout the city. All animals that are picked up have to go through our system for tracking purposes so anyone looking for a lost animal will have a better chance of locating their animal.

Mayor Ramsey informed the Council, the police department dispatch is currently working out of an office in the City Hall and right now they are operating 24-hour dispatch.

Mayor Ramsey mentioned that he had received a phone call from Chuck Brady about going ahead with the construction of the Challenger Field, so he would be sending the contract over in a few weeks, giving us time for things to settle down.

There being no additional business and nothing further to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Paul Roberts and seconded by Mr. Jonathan Davis to adjourn.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



MAYOR, RICK RAMSEY

ATTEST:


Myra Streeter, Clerk
MMC; CMA; CAA