

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 11, 2024

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Jimmy Watson called the meeting to order which was followed with prayer by council member, Eric Cook. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, proceeded with the roll call of the council members.

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

Mayor Watson called for a motion to adopt/approve the council minutes of the February 12, 2024 council meeting. With no comments or objections, the motion was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the minutes.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, presented to the council the January 2024 financial report. Total net profits for the period ending January 31, 2024 were \$1,039,010; sales tax increased 5% and gas revenue increased 48%.

Mayor Watson invited Livingston Parish Clerk of Court, Jason Harris, to address the council. Mr. Harris provided an insightful overview of the purpose and function of the Clerk of Court office.

Mayor Watson requested of the council to table Item #5 on the agenda—Resolution Acknowledging the Receipt of the MWPP Environmental Audit Report.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Ms. Major, Item #5 was tabled.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, presented before the council a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to enter into Agreement with Livingston Parish Government for Sewer Manhole Mitigation Project. Kresten Brown of Forte and Tabalada provided additional information regarding the reason for the CEA.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the resolution as presented.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to enter a public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Griffin brought before the members of the council the proposed Ordinance Revoking the Abandoning and Quitclaim in favor of the Adjacent Landowners that Portion/Portions of a Twelve (12) foot Servitude in Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 4 east of the Greenburg District, Livingston Parish.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Ms. Major, Ordinance 03-2024-01 was approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Wales, to close the public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Special Election for the *Half-Cent Sales Tax* was discussed in the council meeting by Jamie Etheridge and Mayor Watson to, once again, stress the importance of its renewal. Emphasis was placed on the impact it has had in road projects, drainage and sewer maintenance, and grant applications since 2000 when it last passed. The election is scheduled for April 27, 2024.

Chief David Addison asked his Assistant Chief, Kenath Black, to present the recommendations before the council requesting the promotions of Pfc. Victor Bayonne and Pfc. Wesley Clarkson to the rank of Corporal.

A motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve Pfc. Victor Bayonne to the position of Corporal as requested.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve Pfc. Wesley Clarkson to the position of Corporal as requested.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

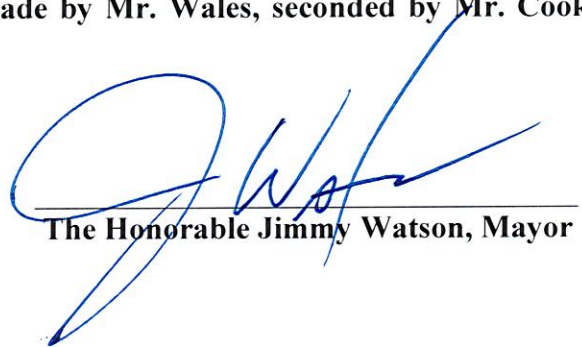
Additional Comments:

- ◆ Jamie Etheridge announced to the council the departure of Wendy Montalbano. Timothy Oxley, formerly of District Ward II, was introduced as the City Water Service Director, filling the vacant position of Ms. Montalbano. Mr. Oxley was hired March 11, 2024 with 24 years of experience in the maintenance industry.

- ◆ A delegation of residents from the Red Oak, Colyell, and Magnolia areas were present to vent their ongoing concerns about the noise and other disturbing activities that has created a nuisance in their neighborhood. These concerns are a continuation of those expressed by Paul Roberts at the February 2024 council meeting. The Walker Police Department stated for the record the efforts they have made to resolve issues they have determined to be legitimate grievances. Suggestions were given by the police department that will they hope will help them apprehend offenders. City Attorney, Bobby King, made additional comments relative to what offenses can be prosecuted through the Mayor's court when a warrant/citation is issued.

- ◆ Ms. Major announced that on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m. there will be the official removal of the canine graves. The ROTC will be present for the occasion.

With no further comments, a motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adjourn the March 11, 2024 council meeting.



The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest: 
Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk