

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2021

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jimmy Watson followed with prayer led by Gary Griffin. Mayor Watson invited all present to remain standing for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Municipal Clerk followed with roll call.

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. Wales, to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2021, council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Finance Director, Mike Cotton, presented the October 2021 Financial Report. He reported that the city's net profit/loss for the period ending October 31, 2021, was (\$559,626). Natural gas revenue decreased by 5%. Sales tax revenue increased by 26%.

It was motioned by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Cook, to accept the financial report as presented by Mike Cotton.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Upon motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Wales, the agenda was lifted to enter into a public hearing.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Ms. Major presented the Ordinance for Annual 2021 Budget Adjustment No. 7 amending the revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

It was motioned by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve **Ordinance 12-2021-01**, the 2021 Annual Budget Amendment No. 7.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Ms. Major presented for adoption the Ordinance for the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the calendar year 2022 which estimates of the revenues and expenditures detailed by departments for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.

It was motioned by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adopt **Ordinance 12-2021-02**.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Clark presented the Ordinance to Update the Pay Schedule which was previously amended February 2021.

Jamie Etheridge informed the council members that the changes were to make our salary wages more competitive and comparable to other entities in the Department of Public Works for heavy and light equipment operators and for laborers. Other adjustments include accounts payable clerk and a new category in Parks and Recreation for an Executive Director and re-classification of the Parks/Recreation Sports Program Coordinator and Community Outreach Coordinator (refer to attached pay schedule).

Upon motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Wales, **Ordinance 12-2021-03** was adopted.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Ms. Major addressed the council regarding the appeal regarding the denial by the Planning and Zoning Commission to subdivide the property located at 28145 Walker South Road [the old Winn-Dixie property]. Austin Haynes came forth to address the council on behalf of the buyer. Jamie Etheridge informed the council that the basis of the denial was that the request to subdivide said property could potentially harm and disrupt the original footprint of the parcel's intended use. It was clarified that this is a planning issue and not a zoning issue. Mr. Etheridge turned the matter over to Mr. Joseph Booth, the secretary of the Walker Planning and Zoning Commission, for explanation.

Mr. Booth informed the council that there were health and safety issues which factored into the decision to deny the request. The Planning and Zoning Commissioners considered whether the request would be consistent with the original intent of the parcel according to the primary plan. The health, safety and welfare of Walker and the surrounding area were the primary concerns. Mr. Booth cited the assault of a resident who lives in the neighborhood behind the store when he investigated a disturbance on the vacant rear lot of the store. Mr. Booth stated that the commission intentions are to carefully examine the type of business to be located on this property. The impact of a development with high volume traffic or even the non-use or low volume visitation on the property could be equally hazardous for the surrounding area including the neighborhood abaft to the store property. The administration and the Planning and Zoning Commission do not oppose the location of the oil change business in the City of Walker. The grounds to deny centers around the subdividing of this particular parcel.

It was motioned by Mr. Wales, seconded by Ms. Major, to uphold the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny the subdividing of the property at 28145 Walker South Road.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

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

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Wales presented before the council a request for a resolution to re-appoint Darren Blevins to Fire District 4 effective immediately.

Upon motion made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Ms. Major, Darren Blevins re-appointment was approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Chief David Addison presented before the Walker City Council the approval of two full-time hires. Full-time candidate, Blake Cavalier, successfully completed the application process and has passed all the required testing and evaluations.

It was motioned by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve Blake Cavalier as a new hire at the Walker Police Department.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Chief Addison requested of the Walker City Council to change the status of Tahj Patterson from part-time to full-time police officer.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the change of status for Tahj Patterson.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Additional comments were given by Mayor Watson reminding everyone of the Walker Christmas Parade starting at 11:00 a.m. December 18, 2021. It will be followed by Christmas in the Park at Sidney Hutchinson. It was announced that our Grand Marshal will be Chief Meteorologist, Jay Grymes of WAFB News.

Ms. Major announced again the Christmas Lighting Contest that is sponsored by the Walker Office of Vehicle. Cash prizes will be rewarded: 1st Prize: \$100; 2nd Prize: \$75; 3rd Prize: \$50. There will be three winners in each category.

John Wilder approached the council and identified himself as the victim of the assault behind the old Winn Dixie parking lot mentioned in Mr. Booth's comments when he addressed the council regarding the denial to subdivide the property at 28145 Walker South Road. He regaled the incident leading up to his vicious assault. Additionally, he cited other criminal activity which was reported to Chief of Police David Addison. He has made several attempts to contact the owner of the property and the individual contracted to handle the sale of the property. His appeal to the council was to ask what action they could possibly take to have the back area of the building blocked off to thru traffic. Mayor Watson informed Mr. Wilder that our city attorney is aware of the situation. The city is trying to determine how to legally address the matter. First, it is private property. Secondly, the fire department must have access to the property.

Kreston Brown of Forte and Tablada responded to an inquiry made by Karen Lofton. Ms. Lofton lives on Aydell Lane. She inquired about the start date of the road improvements. She remarked on the terrible road conditions on Aydell Lane. Kreston Brown replied that improvements will entail widening the road, re-surfacing the road, and drainage improvements. It is projected that the bids for the project will go out by September 2022.

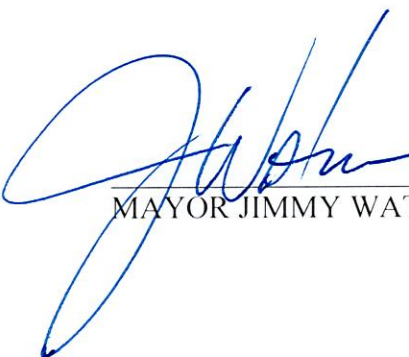
With no further business to discuss, it was motioned by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adjourn the December 2021 city council meeting.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



MAYOR JIMMY WATSON

ATTEST:



Tammy Payton – Municipal Clerk

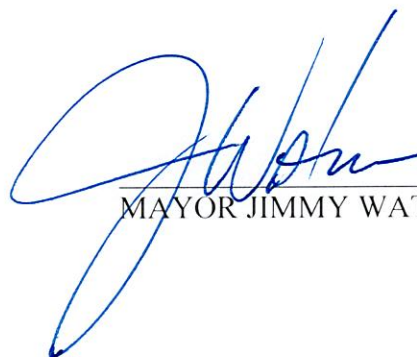
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YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



MAYOR JIMMY WATSON

ATTEST:



Tammy Payton – Municipal Clerk