

# CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2021

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson and Council members: Eric Cook, David Clark, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major, and Richard Wales.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Watson followed with prayer led by Richard Wales. After the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, the roll was called.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021 council meeting.

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

The highlight of the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was the acknowledgment of Triathlon champion, Christopher Robert Ballard by Mayor Watson and Parks and Recreation director, Traci Westmoreland. Christopher came up through the Walker Challengers Program. Recently, he completed the Freedom Fest in New Roads at Frost River on Sunday, June 27, 2021. He adorned yet another gold medal to add to his collection as evidence of his amazing athleticism. The Freedom Fest consist of a 400-meter swim, a 10-mile bicycle ride and a two-mile run. Mayor Watson presented Christopher with a commemorative City of Walker medallion and a key to the city. Pictures and articles of Christopher's experience were on display to view his remarkable feats.

The May 2021 financial report was presented by Finance Director, Mike Cotton. It was reported that the net profit for the period ending 05/30/2021 was \$861,166. Mr. Cotton advised the mayor and council that the June 2021 financial report should be ready by mid-week. Mr. Cotton advised the council members that he is available should they have any questions.

It was motioned by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Major, to the enter into public hearing to discuss the Ordinance/Budget Adjustment for 3/lighting at the ballpark for Fields 1, A, and B.

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

Ms. Major presented before the council and public the 2021 Annual Budget Amendment No. 3 **[Ordinance #07-2021-01]** to increase the enterprise fund by \$250,000 for ballpark lighting for Fields 1, A, and B.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Wales, to approve the 2021 Annual Budget Amendment No. 3 **[Ordinance #07-2021-01]**.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to exit public hearing.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Nancy Kimble addressed the members of the council regarding the Multi-Jurisdictional Program. Ms. Kimble invited the council and public to see her for further information about the program. This program does not require action from the council. It is mandated that this information be presented annually to maintain the City of Walker's CRS (Community Rating System).

Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, requested of the council approve a resolution to declare six (6) vehicles belonging to the City of Walker surplus property to dispose through auction.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve proposed resolution.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chief David Addison requested of the council to approve a change of status for Michael Evan Cheslak from Reserve officer to Part-time police officer.

It was motioned by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve Chief Addison's recommendation.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Jamie Etheridge provided an update on the road and bridge projects in the city. Overlay road improvements are currently underway on Ball Park Road and Travis Street. The next road project will be on Vera McGowen. Mr. Etheridge commended the Street Department for the improvements on Travis St. which will improve drainage by replacing culverts. The millings from Ball Park and Travis are being used to complete the parking at the Safe House. The Brown and Elm Street bridge projects are substantially complete. The Elm Street bridge is projected to open in the next 10 days.

For additional comments, Mayor Watson informed the council and public that the Louisiana Municipal Association will recognize three members of the council with Service Awards at the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention banquet scheduled July 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 in Baton Rouge. Council members, Scarlet Major, Gary Griffin, and Richard Wales will be the recipients of this distinguished award for their four terms as elected public servants.

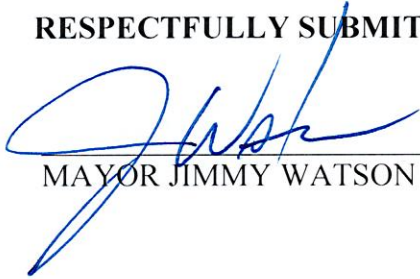
Mayor Watson provided an explanation of why the fireworks were cancelled at Sidney Hutchinson Park on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Three parking lots would be closed because they are within the 500-foot range of the fireworks. This would cause inadequate parking. Mayor Watson stated that there are future plans to address parking issues along Ball Park Road to accommodate large events. Other comments were about the upcoming Fall Fest event scheduled in October. The Veterans' Day event will go forth this year. It was cancelled last year due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Addison inquired about Halloween falling on a Sunday this year. He was informed that our city ordinance observes the date October 31<sup>st</sup> as the Halloween holiday.

Chief Addison inquired about Halloween being on a Sunday. He was informed that our city ordinance states October 31<sup>st</sup>.

With no further business to discuss, it was motioned by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**



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MAYOR JIMMY WATSON

**ATTEST:**



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Tammy Payton - Municipal Clerk