

City of Walker

Minutes

July 9, 2012

7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and Board of Aldermen was held at the Walker City Hall on July 9, 2012 at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Bobby Font, Aldermen Arthur Israel, Scarlett Major, James Phillips, Jack Summerell and Richard Wales.

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

Mayor Font led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. James Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Arthur Israel to adopt the minutes of the June 11, 2012 meeting as presented.

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Arthur Israel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scarlett Major to adopt the minutes of the June 26, 2012 special meeting as presented.

Yeas: Israel, Major and Summerell

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Phillips and Wales

A motion was made by Mr. James Phillips and seconded by Mrs. Scarlett Major to approve the request of William Taylor, Engineer for Mc Lin and Associates; to waive the one foot above the base flood elevation that the City of Walker's ordinance requires pertaining to the development of Peak's Garden subdivision.

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Scott Jones had requested that an item pertaining to billboards be placed on the agenda. Mr. Scott was unable to obtain all information needed to discuss this item thus asking that it be removed from the July agenda and placed on the agenda for the August 13, 2012 regular meeting.

Mayor Font informed the board that the City had received notice of an outstanding debt in the amount of \$1,309,779.03 from the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. This debt is for work performed by DOTD for the moving of city owned utilities along Hwy 447 South when it was widened to 5 lanes. Mayor Font explained that the debt was incurred beginning in 1998 and continued until 2000. The past administrations had not made any payment toward settling the debt. The City is now required to pay \$130,000.00 per year until the amount is paid in full or risk not being able to obtain additional permits or funds from the state related to any other projects. Mayor Font has set an appointment for July 12, 2012 to meet with DOTD to see if any other terms may be considered.

Upon entering into a public hearing, Mr. James Phillips made a motion to amend the City of Walker's Alcohol Ordinance to state the following:

Under the authority of and pursuant to La. R.S. 26:81 (C) 2 and 26:281 (C); No permit shall be granted for any premises situated within three hundred feet or less of a public playground or of a building used exclusively as a church or synagogue, public library, school, full time day care center as defined in R.S. 17:405(A) or correctional facility housing inmates, including but not limited to a halfway house. This distance shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest part of the property line of the church or synagogue, public library, school or full –time day care center to the nearest point of the premises to be licensed. Such method of measurement shall only apply prospectively to the issuance of a new alcohol permit issued on or after the date the ordinance has been adopted.

Mrs. Scarlett Major made a motion to amend the alcohol ordinance to include the ability to grant waivers of the 300 feet straight line method. Following continued discussion regarding 300 feet straight line versus 300 feet walking with or without waiver, Mr. James Phillips seconded Mrs. Major's motion to amend granting waivers .

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Arthur Israel made a motion while still in a public hearing to amend the alcohol to exclude daycares from the 300 ft restriction due to the fact that they close by 6:00pm and are not opened on the weekends. Mr. Israel's motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Jack Summerell made a motion while still in a public hearing to amend the alcohol ordinance from 300ft to 250ft straight line method. Mr. Summerell's motion died for lack of a second.

Following all discussion Mr. James Phillips re-stated his original motion to amend the alcohol ordinance to state 300ft straight line method with the ability to grant waivers. Mrs. Scarlett Major seconded the motion.

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips and Wales

Nays: Summerell

Absent: None

Mr. Jack Summerell withdrew his item on the agenda to amend the alcohol ordinance.

Following a public hearing Mr. James Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to approve an amendment to the 2012 Annual Budget for a 2% annual raise for City employees.

Yeas: Israel, major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chief Marliam Lee presented the Walker Police Report, indicating 300 citations were issued in the month of June 2012.

Mr. Richard Wales made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jack Summerell to approve the request of Chief Lee to change Officer Terry Sanders' employment status from part-time to full-time.

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Jack Summerell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Wales to enter into executive session to discuss an appeal to the board regarding disciplinary actions by Officer Clint Black.

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

Mr. James Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jack Summerell to return to the regular agenda.

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

Mr. Jack Summerell made a motion, seconded by Mr. James Phillips to approve the recommendation of the Board during executive session.

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

Mr. Darren Blevins presented the Public Works Report.

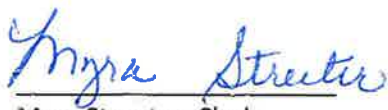
There being no further comments or business to discuss, Mr. Richard Wales made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jack Summerell to adjourn.

Yeas: Israel, Major, Phillips, Summerell and Wales
Nays: None
Absent: None

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED


BOBBY FONT, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Myra Streeter, Clerk
CMC; CMA; CAA