CITY OF WALKER
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

October 12, 2026 6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Jimmy Watson and Council members: David Clark, Eric Cook, Tracy Girlinghouse, Gary Griffin and Scarlett Milton Major.

The meeting opened with prayer by Mr. Cook, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by a group of Scouts attending to earn their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. Mayor Watson presented each Scout with a City of Walker commemorative coin.

Mr. Sherman Mack, candidate for District Attorney, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding his candidacy in the upcoming election. He provided a brief overview of his background, professional experience, and reasons for seeking election.

Mr. Paul Shoemaker provided an update on the City's Safety Program and its recent recognition by Louisiana 811 for establishing Louisiana's first municipal heavy equipment training site.

Mrs. Major made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the minutes from September 14, 2026, council meeting.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: None

Finance Director Mike Cotton presented the August 2026 Financial Report. Mr. Cotton reported a net profit of $1,486,000 as of August 31, 2026, a 7.9% decrease in sales tax revenues, and a 3.3% decrease in natural gas sales.

Chief of Operations, Mr. Jamie Etheridge, presented the following resolutions before the council:

- ***Resolution to Declare City of Walker Property as Surplus***

This Resolution serves to declare the following FAs as Surplus Property to be disposed of in accordance with Louisiana State Law, FA's 45, 71, 86, 94, 115, 664.

Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Major, to approve the resolution.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: None

- ***Resolution to Approve Capital Outlay Projects***

This Resolution allows the City of Walker to enter into two Cooperative Endeavour Agreements with the State of Louisiana, relative to Capital Outlay Projects, through the Office of Facility Planning and Control. This Resolution authorizes Mayor Watson to sign on behalf of the city in all matters pertaining to the Gas System Upgrades (50-MU7-26-01) and the Wastewater Treatment Upgrades (50-MU7-26-02).

Mr. Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the resolution.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Girlinghouse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to enter a public hearing.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Clark presented before the council the proposed *Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12, Section 12-34, Parking in Spaces Designated for Disabled Persons* ***(Ordinance No. 10-2026-01)***. The amendment aligns the City's regulations with applicable state law and authorizes officers to issue parking citations by placing them on unattended vehicles.

Mr. Girlinghouse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adopt ***Ordinance 10-2026-01***.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Girlinghouse presented before the council the proposed *Ordinance, 2026 Budget Amendment No. 6, for Dawn Street Bridge Repair* ***(Ordinance 10-2026-02).*** This ordinance serves to increase the General Fund Street Department Capital Outlay by $232,427 to replace the Dawn Street Bridge.

Mr. Cook made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Major, to adopt ***Ordinance 10-2026-02***.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Griffin presented before the council the proposed *Ordinance to amend the City of Walker Unified Development Code (UDC) to create RA-1 and RA-2 Residential Apartment Zoning Districts; amend related UDC provisions; and codify Ordinance No. 03-2023-02 relative to self-storage facilities* ***(Ordinance 10-2026-03).***

Mr. Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adopt ***Ordinance 10-2026-03***.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Girlinghouse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, to close the public hearing.

Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mr. Jamie Etheridge gave an update on drainage improvements and work underway with the Parish and Gravity Drainage for the unfunded drainage district.

The Council considered Item 12 regarding the Chief of Police's recommendation for termination of Officer Hayden McKenzie. Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1), the Council entered executive session to discuss the character and professional competence of Officer McKenzie.

Mr. Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Girlinghouse, to enter executive session at 6:59 p.m.

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

Executive session attendees: Mayor Jimmy Watson, Council Members David Clark, Eric Cook, Tracy Girlinghouse, Gary Griffin, Scarlett Major, Chief of Operations Jamie Etheridge, City Clerk Kelsey Murray, Attorney Bobby King, Human Resources Tammie Hoyt, Chief of Police David Addison, Assistant Chief Kenath Black, and Captain Chris Dufour

Mr. Griffin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Girlinghouse, to return to open session at 7:11 p.m.

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

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Girlinghouse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the Chief of Police's recommendation for termination of Officer Hayden McKenzie.

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

Additional Comments

Mayor Watson made the following announcements:

- Fall Fest will be held October 17th
- Walk Town Throwdown Disc Golf Tournament will be held Saturday October 24th
- Veterans Day parade will be held November 7th
- Christmas Parade and Festivities will be held Saturday December 5th. The parade will follow a new parade route.
- The City built a new basketball court at Club Outreach for youth sports; this was done through the City's Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Club Outreach.

With no further business to discuss, the October 12, 2026 council meeting was adjourned.

The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelsey Murray, Municipal Clerk