

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2023

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at the Walker City Hall on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jimmy Watson, followed with prayer led by Council member, Gary Griffin. Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton called the roll of the council after the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

With no comments, Mayor Watson called for a motion to adopt the council minutes for the January 9, 2023 meeting.

Upon motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, the minutes from the January 9, 2023 council meeting were adopted.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Financial Director, Mike Cotton, presented before the mayor and members of the council the December 2022 finance report. Assets as of December 31, 2022 were \$2,735,251. Gas revenue was up 35% year over year; sales tax revenue decreased by 13%.

Ms. Major introduced the Ordinance to approve the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to Rezone 28811 Walker South Road, Suite 400 from RC to RC-CAB-1 for Stirling Properties, LLC.

Mr. Griffin introduced the Ordinance to enact Sec. 5.29 of the Unified Development Code (UDC) related to self-storage facilities.

Mr. Cook introduced the Ordinance to amend Section 2.5 and 2.51 that is related to the Sexual Harassment Policy.

Mr. Clark introduced the ordinance to amend Chapter 13 of the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations.

These four introductions are subject to discussion in a public hearing, scheduled at the March 13, 2023 council meeting.

Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, presented before the members of the Council a resolution which authorizes the City of Walker to enter into a Right of Entry License Agreement with Illinois Central Railroad. This agreement allows the Mayor to sign all contracts and agreements related to drainage cleaning outlined in the contractual agreement.

Upon motion made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffin, this resolution was approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Etheridge presented before the members of the Council the Resolution to approve the Appointment of a Director and an Alternate Director to represent the City of Walker on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Municipal Natural Gas Purchasing and Distribution Authority.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Clark, Mayor Jimmy Watson was approved as the Director and Mr. Larry Williams as the Alternate Director.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Trey Sanders of Hannis T. Bourgeois, LLC brought before the Mayor and the members of the council the latest update to the SAUP (Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures) from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022 and a confirmation of the Audit Engagement Letter. Hannis T. Bourgeois shall allow the City of Walker to access LeaseCrunch Services, a cloud-based accounting solution which will assist in the preparation of lease schedules. Both of these agreements require the Mayor's signature. The third letter reviewed is relative to the engagement letter regarding the responsibilities and planned scope of the impending audit which is currently in its planning stage. The projected date to resume the audit is April 1, 2023.

Upon motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Ms. Major, the SAUP letter updated from the LLA, and the audit engagement letter was approved.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Watson read a proclamation declaring MARCH 2023 FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH. This proclamation was dated and signed February 13, 2023. It is submitted yearly for the Community Rating System Program (CRS).

Additional Comments:

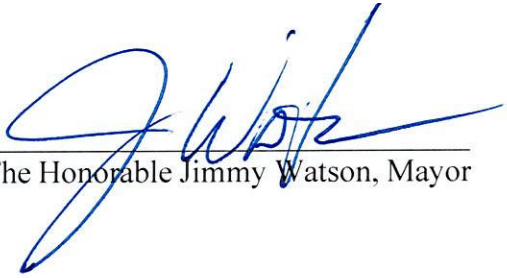
- ◆ Permits Manager, Nancy Kimble, announced that the ribbon cutting for the First Responders Monument is scheduled for March 8, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. Mayor Watson commented her for her dedication and hard work with this project.
- ◆ Ms. Major remarked on the Kroux of Barkus Parade held at Sidney Hutchinson Park on Saturday, February 11, 2023. Photos were shown of the grand marshal, "Lagniappe from the Mountains to the Bayou." He is a giant Schnauzer who was the 2021 winner in the AKC National Championship Dog Show.
- ◆ Jamie Etheridge provided a street overlay update. He reported the completion of overlays on Buff St., Keith St., King St., Park St., and Johnson Lane.
- ◆ Mary Johnson (Club Outreach) announced a Community Clean-up Day scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2023 starting @ 9:30 a.m. Everyone will organize at the Club Outreach location. The City of Walker offered to provide supplies and trash bag pick-up service to help in the clean-up effort.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wales, seconded by Mr. Cook, to adjourn.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Griffin, Major, Wales

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None


The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest: 
Tammy Payton – Municipal Clerk

