

CITY OF WALKER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2025

6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Walker Mayor and City Council was held at Walker City Hall—13600 Aydell Lane Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jimmy Watson, followed with prayer led by Mr. Gary Griffin. The Municipal Clerk, Tammy Payton, conducted the roll call of the council members.

The following council members were present: David Clark, Eric Cook, Tracy Girlinghouse, Gary Griffin, and Scarlett Milton-Major.

Mayor Watson introduced Ms. Jenny Fore, candidate for the 21st JDC Juvenile Court Judge. Ms. Fore was allowed to address the council and present her campaign platform.

Mayor Watson called for swearing of the Oath of Office of the elected officials for the 2025 – 2028 term which was conducted by City Attorney, Bobby King.

The Oath of Office and recognition of the new council was followed by the election of the Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Watson called for nominations. Mr. Griffin nominated Ms. Major. No other nominations were made. The election of Ms. Major was confirmed with the roll call of the city council members.

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

Mayor Watson called for a motion to adopt/approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 council meeting. With there being no comments or objections, a motion was made by Mr. Girlinghouse, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve said minutes.

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

Mayor Watson called for the confirmation of the appointed officials for the 2025 - 2028 term.

- **City Attorney/Prosecutor – Robert King**
Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major
Nays: None
Absent: None
- **Municipal Clerk – Tammy Payton**
Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major
Nays: None
Absent: None
- **Clerk of Court – Janice Valenti**
Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major
Nays: None
Absent: None
- **Court Magistrate – Todd Caruso**
Yeas: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major
Nays: None
Absent: None

Finance director, Mike Cotton, presented the November 2024 finance report. It was reported that the net profit ending November 30, 2024 was \$2,013,750. The sales tax increased by 2.5% and gas revenue decreased by 9.2%.

Ms. Major introduced the ordinance to ban the sale of *Mitragyna Speciosa* Korth, also known as Kratom within the city limits of Walker.

Mr. Griffin introduced the ordinance to approve amendments to the City of Walker Unified Development Code (UDC) regarding minor subdivisions in R-80 Zoning.

Chief of Operations, Jamie Etheridge, requested the council's approval to declare five Walker Police Department vehicles surplus property to be auctioned.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Cook, the Resolution to Declare City of Walker Vehicles as Surplus Property was approved as presented.

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

Mr. Etheridge requested the council's approval to adopt changes to the Employee Handbook, making the employees' anniversary date, *i.e., date of hire*, the 12th holiday added to the 10-hour work schedule. Ten-hour employees will have 120 annual holiday hours.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Girlinghouse, seconded by Mr. Cook, the Resolution Adopting Changes to the City of Walker Employee Handbook Holiday Section – Employee's Work Anniversary Date/Date of Hire was approved as presented.

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

Chief David Addison requested of the city council the full-time hire of Nicholas Graves. Mr. Graves successfully met the criteria set forth by Walker Police Department.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Girlinghouse, the council approved the full-time hire of Nicholas Graves.

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

Mayor Watson called for a motion to enter an executive session for the discussion and action of the settlement of the *Geaux Wider Project (No. 654278); City of Walker ET AL. vs. State of Louisiana-Department of Transportation and Development ET AL.*

A motion was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Clark, to enter the executive session.

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

After the Mayor and Council Members reconvened the executive session, Mayor Watson called for a motion to close the executive session.

A motion made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Girlinghouse, to close the executive session.

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

Jamie Etheridge requested the council's approval of the Resolution to Accept the Terms of the Proposed Geaux Wider Settlement Project.

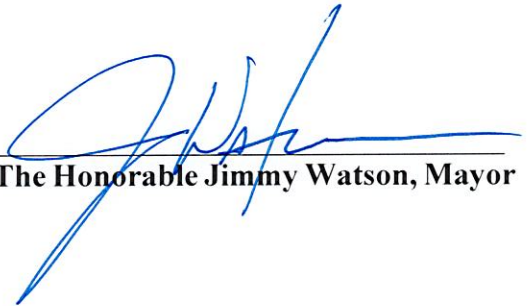
Upon a motion made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Girlinghouse, the resolution was approved as presented.

YEAS: Clark, Cook, Girlinghouse, Griffin, Major

NAYS: None

YEAS: None

With no further business to discuss, the January 13, 2025 city council meeting was adjourned.



The Honorable Jimmy Watson, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy Payton, Municipal Clerk