

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER –Mayor Shaw**

- Mayor Jed Shaw called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
  - Council members present: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw and Wilkening
  - Council members absent:
  - Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator	Pamela Smith, City Employee
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent	Wayne Tennis, Chief of Police
John Valen, City Attorney	Mike Ridlon, Public Works Director
Tony Sauer, Frost Fest	Larry Kimball, Walker Tower
Christina Ridlon, Self	Brad Spry, Leech Lake TV
Cindy Wannarka, LL Chamber	Fred Rogers, Walker Bay Theater
Collette Huston, Chase on the Lake	Jesse Westberg, Chase on the Lake
Travis Baker, City Police	Theresa Bilben, Self
Erin Haefele, Self	

**CONSENT AGENDA-Mayor Shaw**

M/S Moore/Senenfelder to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 13 as follows waving the reading.

1. Approve Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.
2. Approve Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
3. Review and file draft of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments regular meeting minutes of December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
4. Review and file November Zoning Administrator report.
5. Review and file draft of Walker Park Advisory Board minutes of December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
6. Review and file draft of Walker Public Library Board minutes of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
7. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
8. Public Works Committee meeting of December was cancelled due to lack of business.
9. Review and file Walker Area Joint Fire Department Minutes of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
10. Approve Cash Balance Report as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
11. Review and file Insurance Claim in the amount of \$19,060.35 for the replacement of the generator.
12. Review and file notification letter from the Minnesota Department of Revenue regarding pending changes to local sales and use tax agreement.
13. Approve GO Bonds payable to the PFA in the amount of \$19,070.74.  
Motion passed (5-0)

## **SCHEDULED CITIZENS PRESENTATION –Mayor Shaw**

### ➤ Brad Spry-Leech Lake TV Corporation-Franchise Fee payment information

Spry states this is for discussion on a resolution from 1984 between the City of Walker and Leech Lake Television in regards to franchise fees. He stated that there is a lot of money that is donated back into the community such as the school and they would like to be able to continue to donate. He explained that Leech Lake Television is able to broadcast most of the games of WHA so parents and grandparents that are not able to make the games are still able to watch the kids.

Kimball explained that he started in the 1980's on the Tower Board and back then when they didn't have a lot of money the grant from the City meant a lot. Right now we have contracts with various cell phone providers for rent; however they do not expect that to continue. With continued advancements in technology will lead to where they cannot rely on that for revenue. He stated that he understood there was some discussion about switching the 80/20 so the City could use the money for some improvements. He requested that the Council consider a sundown provision where after so many years it goes away unless it's ratified.

Wilkening questioned that based on their needs they are proposing a sunset or a revision. Kimball explained that it would automatically expire in 4 years unless they did something to change it.

They explain that the 4 years is a number they came up with in discussion; it would give approximately \$125,000 for a bathroom.

## **CITY STAFF COMMENTS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund**

### **PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember Senenfelder**

1. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of Claim #57396 to Claim #57521 including Voided Check Numbers 57421, 57422, 57425, 57433 and bank drafts in the amount of \$304,806.03.  
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 01-2020, a resolution stating annual designations.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of Resolution 02-2020, a resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign all State and Federal Airport Grants.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of Resolution 03-2020, a resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Sign all State and Federal Grants.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
5. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of Resolution 04-2020, a resolution accepting donations thru fiscal year 2020.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)

6. **M/S Senenfelder/Hansen** to approve of the following allocations from the donation received from Walker American Legion Pull Tabs; \$2,000 to Walker Lions Club and \$1,000 to Cycling without Age program.  
Motion passed (5-0)
7. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of the request of the Accounting Department to transfer \$644.17 from the General Fund 101 to the Legion Abatement Fund 420 for the second half of 2019 abatement payment to Spencer Ross Post 134.  
Motion passed (5-0)
8. **M/S Senenfelder/Hansen** to approve to send Deputy Register Carol Longfellow to a MNDrive Demonstration in Baxter on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at a cost of wages and mileage.  
Motion passed (5-0)
9. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve to send Chief Tennis to Chief of Police Executive Training in St. Cloud, MN on April 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at a cost of \$485.00 plus mileage, meals and lodging.  
Motion passed (5-0)
10. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve of JoAnn Rand's letter of resignation dated December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 as a Walker Bay Spirits liquor store clerk.  
Motion passed (5-0)
11. **M/S Senenfelder/Hansen** to approve of the 2020 Council Committee Appointments as presented by Mayor Shaw.
12. **M/S Senenfelder/Hansen** to approve of new logo for the new Squad car.  
Motion passed (5-0)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/LIQUOR STORE/AIRPORT/LIBRARY-  
Councilmember Hansen**

1. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of November 25th, 2019.  
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of Walker Library Board meeting minutes of November 20th, 2019.  
Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Hansen/Senenfelder** to approve of the Library building draft plans.  
Wilkening questioned what the next step is.  
Bjorklund explained that upon approval of this; we would move forward with more detailed drawings that would have the actual layout and then that would go out for estimates and then we would have fairly close estimates of what it will cost to construct this building. If you want to move forward at that point it would then go out for bids.  
Wilkening questioned the two renderings included in the packet.  
Hansen clarified that one was the before and the other one showed the suggested changes.  
Senenfelder questioned if they were looking at a half basement.  
Bjorklund stated that it still is at this point. She added that she received an email today from Jack Stine of Hytec and he clarified that stair lifts are not legal in a new build of a public building so it will have to be the dumbwaiter.

Bjorklund added that if they could figure this out and possibly look at the Library Building as well as the proposed restrooms at the same time they could get a little bit better price on them.

Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of appointing Char Moore as the Walker representative to the Kitchigami Regional Library Board.

Motion passed (5-0)

**PARKS & AMBULANCE BOARD– Councilmember Moore**

1. **M/S Moore/Senenfelder** to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board meeting minutes of November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Motion passed (5-0)

2. **M/S Moore/Senenfelder** to approve of the recommendation of the Walker Park Advisory Board to approve the Park application for the Chase the Police Triathlon: Requested by Walker Area Community Center for use of the Lower Park and Lighthouse; Friday July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for set-up, actual event date is Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., clean-up on same day ending at 2:00 p.m. Approximately 250 participants. Contingent of submittal of certificate of insurance naming the City of Walker as additionally insured.

Wilkening stated his concerns of closing the beach off for an extended period of time. Spry clarified the beach is closed off for one hour it is only closed off for that morning not the day before.

Motion passed (5-0)

3. **M/S Moore/Senenfelder** to approve of the recommendation of the Walker Park Advisory Board to approve the Park application for the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament: Requested by Walker Area Community Center for use of the Lower Park; Friday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Set up on the 29<sup>th</sup> and clean up on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Approximately 400 participants. Contingent of submittal of certificate of insurance naming the City of Walker as additionally insured.

Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of the recommendation of the Walker Park Advisory Board to approve the Park application for the Spring Bike Fling: Requested by Leech Lake Chamber for use of the Lower Park; Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Set up at 8:00 a.m. and clean up completed by 3:00 p.m. Approximately 50 participants.

Wilkening questioned the possibility of moving this to the upper part of the Park; adding the Council should consider as many events as they can to be held in the upper Park due to the limited green space in the lower Park.

Moore requested that be a line item on the Park Advisory Board agenda in March; to move smaller events in the Park to the Upper Park.

Motion passed (5-0)

5. Review and file letter from the Chase on the Lake withdrawing their application for Park Use.

Bjorklund reads the letter from the Chase that states they are withdrawing their application for Park Use.

## **PUBLIC WORKS, SAFETY & CEMETERY – Councilmember Wilkening**

### 1. Discussion regarding finalizing street closure for the end of 5<sup>th</sup> Street N.

Wilkening explains that this would be a tent at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> Street with bands and beer vending and food vending inside. Wilkening stated that the County was requiring them to have a water surface area permit or mass gathering permit and that was not going to work with the event promoters. The City is trying to work with them to create a new event for the replacement of Eelpout.

Westberg explains the Chase is already committed to some great bands for that weekend and noted the beer and food vending would be there as well.

Hueston clarified that it would be like a block party and there would be hopes that the Chase would like to do something similar to this more weekends in hopes to help stimulate the economy up here this time of year. She stated that she would like to collaborate with other area businesses to help get them involved as well.

**M/S Wilkening/Senenfelder** to approve the street closure permit for an on-land festival that does not include any ice events with no restrictions regarding lake permits

Hansen questioned who is picking up the mess. She added that whatever the title of the rebranding of this festival is there is still going to be a mess. She stated that everyone is asking how the City of Walker is going to clean up their lake.

Senenfelder stated that by Statute the lake does not belong to the City of Walker.

He added that he is concerned about overnight parking and we have ordinances regulating that.

Tennis stated that is overlooked during that weekend.

Senenfelder stated that it could be opening up a can of worms to not allow a resident to park on the street throughout the winter but allow festival goers to park overnight on the streets and not enforce the ordinance.

Moore questioned if they need to have a meeting with the DNR as far as clean up on the lake is concerned.

Wilkening stated that the Lake is our biggest resource and we have to act our due diligence, however they are working with Chase for the rebranding of this event.

There will be people that are coming up regardless of what you rebrand it and that they should probably expect some heat this year.

Shaw stated that he had a meeting with Sheriff Birch and Stevenson and they were still supportive of the event taking place. Shaw added that there probably isn't a better year than this one to try to transition the festival off of the lake than this year with the way our ice conditions have been. It is February and quiet in our town and if we can tone the party down and get it up on land and off the lake; this is going to be the best conditions that we can do it.

Wilkening stated the county ordinance states that a gathering of excess of 300 whether it is planned or not can come in and issue a cease and desist.

Shaw stated that regardless of what is said tonight there will still be a certain group that will still show up over that weekend and they will still do what they are going to do on a public body of water outside the City of Walker jurisdiction. We are just trying to help a local business hold an event during the winter and it sounds like we are all willing to come together to make that happen.

Wilkening added and they may have to make adjustments next year; this is an experimental year.

Moore questioned if they were going to charge to get into the tent. Wilkening replied they are getting a commercial permit from the City so it would allow them to charge.

Bjorklund questioned if the bands were starting Thursday night.

He replied that they were.

Tennis requested that the bottom of the park be cleaned up so they could park some trailers there.

Senenfelder stated that it is in violation of an ordinance.

Bjorklund points out the 2017 event parking, she questioned if the Council would like to move forward with the same plan; what direction would they like to give City staff as far as where to direct people in 2020.

Motion passed (5-0)

**M/S Wilkening/Moore to approve the parking plan as presented.**

Motion passed (5-0)

### **OTHER BUSINESS –Mayor Shaw**

Shaw stated that we need to address the Arvig Franchise Fees as it relates to the Leech Lake Television.

Senenfelder stated that there are no local townships that contribute to Leech Lake TV.

Bjorklund questioned if they have ever approached the townships. She suggested that in March when local townships have their annual meeting they consider submitting a letter or showing up to the meeting to have a discussion.

Shaw stated that he is not on board to do a sunset clause. I don't see any reason that you couldn't approach the City at any moment if you needed to regarding these proceeds and request that they direct them to Leech Lake Television should there be a need. I understand that you do good works with it. What the City needs with the scope of the projects that the City has under its belt for the next several years directing public funds towards those projects seems to be the prudent course of action.

Senenfelder agrees adding that if Leech Lake Television gets in the same financial situation they were in the late 70s or early 80s then I would welcome them to come back.

**M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening to void the resolution with Leech Lake Television and terminating the franchise fee agreement.**

Bjorklund stated that she would have staff draw up a resolution terminating resolution 23-1982 and drafting a new resolution allotting 80 percent to the City of Walker and 20 percent to Leech Lake TV or whatever it is that the council decides.

The council requests to void this resolution terminating the franchise fee agreement.

Senenfelder stated that at any time they can come back to us, adding that what he sees is that they are financially stable. As you can see that the dollar amount is in excess of \$30,000 a year, if we put that money towards our downtown bathroom we could have that paid for in four years and we don't have to put that burden back on the tax payers.

Spry adds that if that happens things will change with Leech Lake TV; we donated \$50,000 to the school. If we don't have that, things will change.

Motion passed (5-0)

- City offices and DMV will be closed on Monday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**ADJOURNMENT-Mayor Jed Shaw**

Mayor Shaw adjourns the meeting at 6:51p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jed Shaw, Mayor

Attest:\_\_\_\_\_  
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator