

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER –Mayor Shaw

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

Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator
John Valen, City Attorney
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent
Andy Erickson, Police Department
S. Herding, Self
Andy Waletzko, Hy-Tec Const.
Tony Freeman, Self

Pamela Smith, City Employee
Mike Ridlon, Public Works Director
Travis Baker, Police Department
Corrine Erickson, Self
Chris Kuehn, Self
Jack Steinke, Hy-Tec Const.
Mark Mckenna, SuperOne

CONSENT AGENDA-Mayor Shaw

M/S Moore/Wilkening to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 15 as follows waving the reading.

1. Approve Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of February 3, 2020.
 2. Review and file draft of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments regular meeting minutes of February 24, 2020.
 3. Review and file January 2020 Zoning Administrator report.
 4. Review and file draft of Walker Park Advisory Board minutes of February 25th, 2020.
 5. Review and file draft of Walker Public Library Board minutes of February 19th, 2020.
 6. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
 7. Review and file Public Works Committee meeting minutes of February 27th, 2020.
 8. Review and file Walker Area Joint Fire Department Minutes of February 13th, 2020.
 9. Approve Cash Balance Report as of January 31st, 2019.
 10. Review and file 2019 Activity Listing Reports for the City of Walker.
 11. Review and file Cass County Sheriff's Office 2019 Annual Report.
 12. Approve of application for final payment with Ulteig for 2018 Street and Utility Improvements-CSAH 12 (Tenth Street) Contract No. R17.01996 in the amount of \$16,607.10.
 13. Approve to pay Ferguson in the amount of \$2,212.83 for 15 Registers invoice # 0450399
 14. Approve Payment of emergency replacement for furnace # 2 at the Water Plant By Andrews Plumbing in the amount of \$3,450.00
 15. Review and File Outdoor Skating Rink funding breakdown for 2020-2021
- Motion passed (4-0)

SCHEDULED CITIZENS PRESENTATION –Mayor Shaw

- Presentation of Life Saving Award to Officer Andrew Erickson
Chief Tennis explains that on December 25th, 2019 Officer Erickson responded to a call to a residence in town where a woman was choking. The husband at the scene explained that she was choking on a piece of steak. After Officer Erickson observed that she was not breathing he performed the Heimlich maneuver. He explained the after about 3 or 4 thrusts he heard a gasp; at which time the chunk of steak was dislodged. After that she started breathing and her color started coming back and North Memorial Ambulance arrived at the scene and took over.

- The City Council wishes to recognize the poster contest winners from the MRWA Fourth Grade poster contest.
 - 1st Place, Elayna Freeman
 - 2nd Place, Emylie Freeman
 - 3rd Place, Eli Kuehn

CITY STAFF COMMENTS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund

- Update on natural gas
Administrator Bjorklund explains that after many years they are ordering pipes this week and permits are in hand. They will be ready in the spring to start the transmission line coming from Cass Lake to north of Walker. Once the transmission line is in the next company will take over and install the lines through the City and out to the Casino. Starting the heating season of 2020 a majority of residents of the City of Walker should have access to natural gas. They will come back in 2021 and install for the additional residents along the way that they were not able to hook up in 2020.

Building Projects

- Consider approval of the design development documents for the new Walker Public Library and the Trail Head Restrooms and approve to send out for pricing.
Mr. Waletzko introduces himself as one of the designers for Hy-Tec Construction out of Brainerd. He explained that he has worked with Terri Bjorklund and members of the Library Board to come up with the design concept for the new public Library and the trailside restrooms. At this time they have submitted a design concept for approval so they could go out for pricing in the next few weeks and next month they could have a number for City Council.
Wilkening questioned the colors picked out for the Library and the trailside restrooms stating they are intended to be matching.
Mr. Waletzko stated that the concrete block of the trailside restrooms is the same color as the wainscoting of the Library building and they would be tied together. Bjorklund explained that the blue grout shown in the schematic for the Library building will not be done. She reiterates that because of the unstable soil they will be using oversized footings for the project. There will be a half basement and half crawlspace.

PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Mayor Shaw

1. **M/S Shaw/Moore** to approve of Claim #57626 to Claim #57721 including Voided Check Numbers 57642 and 57643 and bank drafts in the amount of \$194,208.02
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S Shaw/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 08-2020, a Resolution certifying past due Walker Water Works account and delinquent nuisance enforcement expenses for past due snow removal to the 2021 tax roll.
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Shaw, Wilkening, Moore Nays: None
Absent: Senenfelder
Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S Shaw/Moore** to approve not to waive the statutory Tort limits established by MN Statute §466.04
Motion passed (4-0)
4. **M/S Shaw/Hansen** to approve of the brewery license applications from Portage Brewing Company LLC, located at 107 5th Street South for a Brewer Off-Sale, Off Sale Sunday Growler and Tap Room On-Sale/Sunday license.
Motion passed (4-0)
5. **M/S Shaw/Wilkening** to approve of the Temporary Liquor license application from Walker Community Center for a wedding on April 4th, 2020.
Motion passed (4-0)
6. **M/S Shaw/Moore** to approve of the successful completion of Carol Longfellow’s 6 month probation period adding an additional .50 cents to her hourly wage; effective January 9, 2020.
Motion passed (4-0)
7. Draft Resource Officer Agreement that was requested by Eric Pingrey, they are requesting a cost for this service for further discussion.
Wilkening explained that in this agreement they would be reimbursed for approximately nine months of the school year. This was discussed in public works and brought up that this may be for a full time officer and they would be looking at an extra wage to keep them from drawing unemployment or moving on.
Chief Tennis explained that this was brought up from the joint powers board and they have requested the school to give them a price of what the cost would be to employ a resource officer at the school. Pingrey requested that it be a three to five year contract. This request would go back to the township boards. Chief Tennis added that the school cannot afford to pay for a resource officer. If they are awarded the contract that would give the City enough time to apply for a Federal Grant under resource officers; which is usually a three year grant which after that time the City would have to have a plan on how to continue.
Bjorklund explains that Reno Wells is spearheading this and requesting a number to bring before the Townships because he believes they will be willing to help out with the costs for this officer. If we are successful getting the grant for a resource officer and you take the police part time budget and put those two together we would be lacking about \$4,000 and whatever overtime budget there would be. She explained that there is a provision in there that includes the union contract runs as a three year contract and if that changes then this one would change.

Wilkening stated that his only concern is not raising taxes.

M/S Shaw/Moore to approve the contract in draft form for further review upon receiving the notification that the school would like to move forward with the contract.

Motion passed (4-0)

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

1. M/S Hansen/Moore to approve design development documents for the new Walker Public Library and the Trailhead restrooms and approve to send out for pricing.

Motion passed (4-0)

2. M/S Hansen/Wilkening to approve of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of January 27th, 2020.

Motion passed (4-0)

3. M/S Hansen/Wilkening to approve of Ordinance No. 2020-02, an Ordinance of the City of Walker, Minnesota annexing land located in Shingobee Township, Cass County, Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §414.033 Subdivision 2(3), permitting annexation by Ordinance.

Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Shaw, Wilkening, Moore Nays: None

Absent: Senenfelder

Motion passed (4-0)

4. M/S Hansen/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 09-2020, a Resolution authorizing summary publication of Ordinance no. 2020-02 an Ordinance of the City of Walker, Minnesota annexing land located in Shingobee Township, Cass county, Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota statutes § 414.033 subdivision 2(3), permitting annexation by Ordinance.

Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Shaw, Wilkening, Moore Nays: None

Absent: Senenfelder

Motion passed (4-0)

5. M/S Hansen/Moore to approve of Resolution 10-2020, a Resolution calling for a public hearing on the proposed adoption of Ordinance 2020-03, a zoning classification Ordinance.

Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Shaw, Wilkening, Moore Nays: None

Absent: Senenfelder

Motion passed (4-0)

6. M/S Hansen/Wilkening to approve of the recommendation of the Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to approve LU-2020-02 Lot Split with the following findings of fact and condition and waiving the application fee;

Findings of Fact:

- 1) The proposed lot split is zoned PUBLIC and the abutting property zoned as PUBLIC and is properly zoned where Public uses of land not oriented towards recreation and open space. Typical uses may include federal, state, or local government offices, schools, or utilities.
- 2) Proposed Tracts have access to public water and sewer.
- 3) The applicant is not proposing any provisions for water-based recreation.

- 4) Lot areas and dimensions conform to the requirements of the zoning provisions, without variance.
- 5) Future development will not be constrained by the proposed lot layouts.
- 6) Each lot is subject to the right-of-way and easements as designated.

Condition:

- 1) An easement for ingress, egress and utility purposes from the proposed road to the existing easements will be provided once an intersection has been determined by Cass County.

Motion passed (4-0)

6. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of using the 2014 Ford Taurus as a courtesy car at the Walker Municipal Airport once the Walker Police Department receives their new squad car as a replacement.

Chief Tennis explained they will look into whether or not the locks in the back will allow the backseat to be opened from the interior. They will also keep the Walker decal on the car.

Motion passed (4-0)

PARKS & AMBULANCE BOARD– Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board meeting minutes of January 28th, 2020.

Motion passed (4-0)

2. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board to approve the Park Use application from the Community Education Summer Recreation: Requested by Walker Hackensack Akeley School for use of the Upper and Lower Park; Monday through Thursday; June 6-11, June 15-18 and July 6-9 and July 13-16 for set-up, from 9a.m. to noon. Approximately 60 participants.

Motion passed (4-0)

3. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board to approve the Bench request from the WHS Class of 1949 with the location to be determined at a later date after coordination with City Staff and the Park Advisory Board.

Moore questioned if the City was responsible for the maintenance on the benches.

Bjorklund explained that once the City accepts the benches the City would be responsible until they are no longer viable.

Wilkening questioned a possible conflict with the sign Ordinance stating the sign Ordinance does not allow for benches to have a message.

The Council discusses briefly the benches that are currently located at the Park are memorial benches.

Motion failed (0-4)

Wilkening explained that he wanted a clear designation of what it was going to say.

M/S Moore/Wilkening to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board to approve the Bench request from the WHS Class of 1949 with the location to be determined at a later date after coordination with City Staff and the Park Advisory Board.

Motion passed (4-0)

PUBLIC WORKS, SAFETY & CEMETERY – Councilmember Wilkening

1. M/S Wilkening/Moore to approve to enter into a Right-of -Way Easement agreement with Miners Inc.

Motion passed (4-0)

2. M/S Wilkening/Moore to approve of Resolution 11-2020, a Resolution calling for a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed vacation of certain city streets.

Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Shaw, Wilkening, Moore Nays: None

Absent: Senenfelder

Motion passed (4-0)

3. M/S Wilkening/Moore to approve of the quote from Turf Tech for the spraying of Ah-Gwah-Ching, New Industrial Park Road, Walker Bay Blvd, and holding ponds by Highland Avenue in the amount totaling \$3,000.00. for the spraying of 130'x60' area of City property off of 2nd street located on City property off of Second Street in the amount of \$200.00 for the fertilizing and herbicide applications for the City Park, City Hall and Public Library properties in the amount of \$2,790.00

Motion passed (4-0)

4. M/S Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the quotes totaling \$19,300 from Turf Tech for the 2020 season for Cemetery maintenance, Herbicide applications and irrigation maintenance.

Motion passed (4-0)

5. Discussion on Cass County recycling center located at Ace Hardware

Wilkening explained that after a conversation with Jeff Holly he was made aware that the County is looking at possibly defunding portions of the recycling center. And the leftover cost would be up to Ace Hardware to take care of. Wilkening explained that doesn't seem fair; especially since we all pay a recycling fee on our taxes. Wilkening wants the Board to be aware that there is a possibility that they could lose that recycling center. He explained that when the recycling center was located in town by Orton's it would fill up quickly during weeks like the Fourth of July and if there was a wind storm the cardboard would blow all over town and it would be unsightly; where the recycling center is located now they have more screening and better facilities to house it there. If you have the opportunity to speak on behalf of keeping the Cass County funding for the recycling center he recommends that they do that.

Moore questioned who they would contact.

Wilkening stated Cass County Environmental services.

Wilkening stated that he was asked by an area resident on what the City's position is on the Coronavirus. He explained that City of Walker has nothing to do with the response and that they coordinate with Cass County for emergency response. The resident questioned if the City Police would be in charge of quarantine. His response was that kind of power would not be granted to a municipality it would be the

Sherriff's department and the State. He spoke with Josh Stevenson and confirmed this adding that instead the quarantine would be coordinated and regulated through the CDC. He stated that if anyone is asked about the City's position on this to encourage those questions to contact Cass County Health department for more information.

Mayor Shaw added that the League of Minnesota Cities is keeping them in the loop as far as websites and other sources of information regarding this.

OTHER BUSINESS –Mayor Shaw

Hansen stated that she met with Jason Goehring from American National Bank this past week. Once Library construction is under way they will need a temporary location to house the Library. Being that we are in a contract with Kitchigami we have to have 'x' amount of square feet for the duration of the time that the Library is under construction. She explained that after touring the space they feel it is the most suitable location having enough space, men and woman restrooms and one level entry with parking. They are asking \$1,000 a month and that would include all utilities except for internet.

M/S Hansen/Moore to negotiate a lease with American national bank for temporary housing of the Kitchigami Walker Public Library.

Motion passed (4-0)

ADJOURNMENT-Mayor Jed Shaw

Mayor Shaw adjourns the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Jed Shaw, Mayor

Attest: _____
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator