

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER –Mayor Shaw**

- Mayor Jed Shaw called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Mayor Shaw turned the regular meeting over to Administrator Terri Bjorklund for the swearing in of the Mayor and Council Members.
  - Council members present: McMurrin, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw
  - Council members absent: Wilkening
  - Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator  
Pamela Smith, City Employee  
Travis Baker, Police  
Cindy Wannarka, Chamber  
Nancy Beard, Shingobee Twp.  
Fred Rogers, Self  
Shannon Pfeiffer, FOP, PAB  
Jared Olson, Self  
Erin Haefele, Self

John Valen, City Attorney  
Wayne Tennis, Chief of Police  
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent  
Lee Westfield, WACC  
Gene Alderson, Turtle Lake Twp.  
Ron Geiser, Shingobee Twp.  
Otto Ringle, Self  
Maggie Mellby, Circle of Time

**CONSENT AGENDA-Mayor Shaw**

M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 10 as follows, waving the reading.

1. Approve Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and public hearing meeting minutes of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
2. Approve Walker City Council continuation meeting minutes of December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
3. Review and file draft of Walker Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
4. Review and file Friends of Park minutes of December, 2016.
5. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
6. Review and file Public Works Committee minutes of December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
7. Approve Cash Balance Report as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
8. Review and file Walker Area Joint Fire Department Minutes of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
9. Approve of paid Invoice No. 1622857 from Nortrax in the amount of \$3,244.03 for emergency repair.
10. Review and file the written municipal advisor client disclosure with the City and Ehlers.

Motion passed (4-0)

**SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS –Mayor Shaw**

Geiser specified that he is representing surrounding area townships. He stated that at the intergovernmental meetings they have discussed the possibility of constructing an ice-skating rink closer to the center of town. He stated that the surrounding area townships are prepared to help with funding for this. Geiser would like to see something more geared towards ice-skating not just hockey; he doesn't believe that the outdoor rink at the community center is being properly used.

Beard identified prices that would apply to a rink that they are proposing. She notes that if you installed a 50x80 foot area rink with 16 inch side walls the cost is roughly \$4,500; if you would install 18 sidewalls the cost increases to \$5,500. It is also noted that this rink-system is meant to be removed in the summer months.

They discussed where a suitable location would be, parking, lighting, restrooms and accessibility. Senenfelder reminds the public and the board that they already spend up to \$10,000 a year supporting the outdoor rink that is currently located at the WACC; he notes it would be a duplication of services if they offer the same support at a different location. Geiser stated that he is looking to get permission from the City to research this and would like to know if the City would be receptive to this. McMurrin and Senenfelder stated that they both would be. Senenfelder added that he is supportive of it as long as there is help with funding this. The public offers brief input regarding possible funds or grants that would be available. McMurrin suggests to the townships that they keep discussing this at their meetings and bring it back to the Council when they have something more finalized. Shaw adds that once they have something together it can go through the Park Board.

**CITY OF WALKER  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2017-01  
ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER –Mayor Shaw**

- Mayor Jed Shaw called the Public Hearing to order at 6:14 p.m.
  - Council members present: McMurrin, Senenfelder, Shaw
  - Council members absent: Wilkening
  - Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator  
 Pamela Smith, City Employee  
 Travis Baker, Police  
 Cindy Wannarka, Chamber  
 Nancy Beard, Shingobee Twp.  
 Fred Rogers, Self  
 Shannon Pfeiffer, FOP, PAB  
 Jared Olson, Self  
 Erin Haefele, Self

John Valen, City Attorney  
 Wayne Tennis, Chief of Police  
 Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent  
 Lee Westfield, WACC  
 Gene Alderson, Turtle Lake Twp.  
 Ron Geiser, Shingobee Twp.  
 Otto Ringle, Self  
 Maggie Mellby, Circle of Time

Mayor Shaw opened the Public Hearing at 6:14p.m. and address's the public asking if there are any questions or comments regarding this Public Hearing on the proposed adoption of Ordinance 2017-01; an Ordinance that adds Arts and Culture Commission to the City Code.

Rogers stated that he is representing the Theater but he is also the president of the Five Wings Arts Council and a member of Center for Small Cities at the University of Minnesota-Morris. He notes that he would be able to give positive input, resources and guidelines for this commission to work.

Ringle congratulates the new members of the board and congratulates the Council for considering an Arts and Culture Committee. He reminds the Board that before all arts and culture requests went through the Park Advisory Board and he knows that they have enough to do with the just the Park alone. I firmly believe that the City should have an Arts and Culture Commission and urges the passing of such.

No other public comments or suggestions heard.

Public hearing closed at 6:17 p.m.

**CITY STAFF COMMENTS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund**

None.

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

1. **M/S** Senenfelder/McMurrin to approve of Claim #53231 to Claim #53343 including Voided Check Numbers 53259, 53276 and 53281 and bank drafts in the amount of \$437,826.92 thru 12/30/2016.  
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S** Senenfelder/McMurrin to approve of Resolution 01-2017, a Resolution Stating Annual Designations.  
Roll Call: Ayes: McMurrin, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw                      Nays: None  
Absent: Wilkening  
Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S** Senenfelder/Moore to approve of Resolution 02-2017, a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign all State and Federal Airport Grants.  
Roll Call: Ayes: McMurrin, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw                      Nays: None  
Absent: Wilkening  
Motion passed (4-0)
4. **M/S** Senenfelder/Moore to approve of Resolution 03-2017, a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Sign all State and Federal Grants.  
Roll Call: Ayes: McMurrin, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw                      Nays: None  
Absent: Wilkening  
Motion passed (4-0)
5. **M/S** Senenfelder/Moore to approve of Resolution 05-2017, a Resolution certifying past due Walker Water Works accounts to the 2018 tax roll.  
Roll Call: Ayes: McMurrin, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw                      Nays: None

Absent: Wilkening

Motion passed (4-0)

6. **M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin** to approve of Resolution 06-2017, a Resolution accepting donations made to the City of Walker thru fiscal year 2017.  
Roll Call: Ayes: McMurrin, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw                      Nays: None  
Absent: Wilkening  
Motion passed (4-0)
7. **M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin** to approve of the 2017 Council Committee Appointments as presented by Mayor Shaw.  
Motion passed (4-0)
8. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of Wayne Tennis's request to attend the 2017 Executive Training Institute on April 23<sup>rd</sup> thru April 26<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud, MN at a cost of \$385.00, plus meals, lodging and mileage.  
Motion passed (4-0)
9. **M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin** to approve to terminate Garr Pemberton as a Part-time Fill-in police officer as of January 09, 2017.  
Motion passed (4-0)
10. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of the request of the Accounting Department to transfer \$1,110.53 from the General Account to the Legion Abatement Account for the February 2017 abatement payment to Spencer Ross Post 134.  
Motion passed (4-0)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/LIQUOR STORE/AIRPORT –Councilmember McMurrin**

➤ Planning Commission did not meet in December 2016 due to lack of business to discuss

1. **M/S McMurrin/Moore** to approve of Consider approval of advertising for an Engineering Consultant in accordance with FAA AC 150/5100-14E  
Motion passed (4-0)

**PARKS /AMBULANCE BOARD/ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION– Councilmember Moore**

1. **M/S Moore/Senenfelder** to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board meeting minutes from November 22, 2016.  
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S Moore/Senenfelder** to approve of the Park Events Permit application from Walker Eelpout Festival to host a fishing tournament on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 to February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017; set-up date February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and clean up date to continue thru snow-melt.  
McMurrin questioned why the set-up is on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Olson stated that this is when the tent will be assembled on the ice.  
Senenfelder reminds the Board that this did not pass through the Park Advisory Board; it came in a little bit late. We want to make sure the owner/promoter has enough time. Olson adds that his insurance policy will be in tomorrow.  
Motion passed (4-0)

3. **M/S Moore/McMurrin** to approve of Ordinance 2017-01, an Ordinance adding Arts and Culture Commission for the City of Walker.

Valen stated that he would like clarification on Section 4 1(B).

The Board discusses what a local entity is defined as. The Board notes the following: local school, local business or local theater. McMurrin sees it defined as not wanting someone from Minneapolis applying and trying to come up once a month.

Senenfelder added that the way he interprets this is that you wouldn't have to have two council members sitting on the committee; you would only need one. And 3 members of the 5 members must be City residents. Valen adds that they need to be a qualified elector. Shaw agrees that the language could be cleaned up.

Motion failed (0-4)

Mayor Shaw requested that this Ordinance is sent to Valen to revise some of the language.

### **PUBLIC WORKS, SAFETY & CEMETERY – Mayor Shaw**

1. **M/S Shaw/McMurrin** to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to send Nick Zubke to attend the MRWA annual technical conference in St. Cloud March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 thru March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at a cost of \$230.00 plus lodging, meals and mileage.

Motion passed (4-0)

2. **M/S Shaw/Moore** to approve of the recommendation of the public works committee to hire SwedeBro for the re-coating of the ambulance garage floor; completed at one time in the amount of \$6,500.

Motion passed (4-0)

3. Discussion on public nuisances regarding snow removal affecting public peace and safety.

Valen stated that after a conversation with Wayne they were discussing the most effective way to handle this. And we concluded that issuing criminal citations is not the way to do this. We are looking for some direction from the Council and this to go back to Public Works to discuss this. We would like to steer towards more of the abatement end of it. If the people don't remove the snow the City would and then bill them for it and if they don't pay it by the end of the year the City would certify it to their taxes. Both Senenfelder and Shaw agree that they support the abatement suggestion. The Board discusses the 24 hours' time frame for snow clean up. Mayor Shaw suggested that after 24 hours the City issue a letter that it needs to be cleaned up and failing to do so would mean that the City would then clean that area up; billing the property owner, which could potentially if unpaid would be added to their tax roll. Bjorklund stated that this letter gives them the Ordinance and 24 hour notice before the City would take action. Valen added that he thinks it is a good letter.

Morrill stated that he had concerns of the snow that sat along 371/Main Street for over a week before the festival of lights. He stressed that area business owners were very upset that the snow never got removed.

Senenfelder stated MnDOT is in charge of snow removal on 371/Main Street. He added that the City has a snow removal policy, and believe that that policy was followed.

Bjorklund stated they understood that there was an issue just before the Christmas holidays and MnDOT was not available to help as they normally do. As staff and Council, we looked for alternatives for us if we cannot get help from the State for snow removal. We were able to get quotes for snow removal from other sources if this were to happen again. Christmas was a calamity of the ground not being frozen and was soft; there was no place to dump snow without the truck sinking and getting stuck. The DOT was not willing to come in and help remove snow because we were supposed to get snow the next night again.

Morrill stated that if we would have known that MnDOT was not available or willing to help. Morrill suggested that the assumption that the City dropped the ball could have been avoided with an email sent to businesses stating that.

Bjorklund encourages the public to call City Hall if there is ever a question.

The Board adds that they should make note in the snow-removal letter that this is the only letter sent for the season and they will get billed for each time the City has to remove the snow.

**M/S Shaw/Moore** to approve to mail the snow-removal notification letter and hand deliver when possible with the added language revisions noting that is only seasonal notification they will receive and the property owner will be billed for each time the City has to remove snow.

Motion passed (4-0)

4. **M/S Shaw/McMurrin** to approve to hire T&C Excavating or Tyler's Backhoe service when the State and County are not available to remove snow at the quoted rates.

Motion passed (4-0)

#### **OTHER BUSINESS –Mayor Jed Shaw**

➤ City Offices and DMV will be closed on Monday January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

➤ Mayor Shaw reads the following Open Board Seats as of January 1, 2017:

**PLANNING COMMISSION;** Five (5) member board – Two (2) open seats,  
(Two seats open to non-resident property owners)

Term Limit-2 consecutive 3 year terms

**CEMETERY BOARD;** Seven (7) member board – one (1) Walker seat open

Term Limit- 3-year term

**LIBRARY BOARD;** Seven (7) member board- One resident seat open

Kitchigami Board member seat open – must be a resident

Term Limit-2 consecutive 3 year terms

**PARK BOARD;** Seven (7) member board – One resident seat open

People wishing to fill the open seats may fill out an application for the seat and return to Terri Bjorklund by e-mail [terrib@arvig.net](mailto:terrib@arvig.net) or dropping off at City Hall or by mail PO Box 207 Walker MN 56484

Applications can be found on line at [www.walker.govoffice.com](http://www.walker.govoffice.com) or at Walker City Hall 205 Minnesota Avenue West.

**ADJOURNMENT-Mayor Jed Shaw**

Mayor Shaw adjourned the regularly scheduled Meeting at 6:44p.m.

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

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