

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER –Mayor Shaw**

- Mayor Jed Shaw called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 5:00 p.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  
Seth Liefer, Self

**CONSENT AGENDA-Mayor Shaw**

None.

**SCHEDULED CITIZENS PRESENTATION –Mayor Shaw**

None.

**CITY STAFF COMMENTS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund**

None.

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

1. M/S Shaw/Moore to approve of Resolution 31-2019, a Resolution for Deputy Registrar Reimbursement Grant Program City of Walker, Minnesota.  
Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Shaw, Wilkening                      Nays: None  
Absent: Senenfelder  
Motion passed (4-0)

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

1. M/S Hansen/Moore to approve of Consider reconfirmation of Council action on February 06, 2017 allowing Library Board and City staff to move ahead with plans for a new Library to be built on the current site and to continue work with Lucachick Architecture in developing of the building plans.  
Wilkening stressed that this needs to get done, adding the building was built on fill and wasn't properly compacted; the one corner of the building has sunk approximately four inches.  
Motion passed (4-0)

**PARKS/AMBULANCE BOARD–Councilmember Moore**

1. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** to approve to request that Park Board revisit the location of the Pickle Ball Courts

Discussion on Pickle Ball Courts.

Wilkening states that he thinks the pickle ball courts are a great thing but doesn't think the placement was thought through well enough.

Moore questioned if they realized they used donated money for this. She stated that was where there was once a basketball court there is now a pickle ball court.

Wilkening pointed out that the basketball court did not have a big green fence around it. Moore stated that she has not had any complaints about it but rather complements.

Hansen stated that she was accosted at Walker Bay Live about this.

Wilkening added that his concern is the open space; that is what parks are for. He stated that he has argued about big tents in that area as well as excessive commercial use.

Shaw questioned if the board would like to move this back to Park Board.

Wilkening noted that a better placement for this would be by the water plant.

Moore disagrees stating that she thinks that it is in a perfect spot.

Wilkening realizes that it will cost the city twenty to thirty grand, adding that whether it is next year or twenty years from now it will be money well spent. He notes that there was never anything in the Park Plan or the Comprehensive Plan in regards to pickle ball courts.

Moore requested that before a vote that this go back to the park board.

Wilkening also requested that the Park Board revisit this along with questioning where to replace the green space.

Motion passed (3-1)

Moore stated that she would have denied the statue discussion returning to the Park Board at the previous Council meeting. Moore questioned why they are discussing it again?

**M/S Moore/Wilkening** to approve to deny the request for the placement of a statue in the Rock Garden and no more statues at Walker City Hall location.

Wilkening states that his biggest concern is the solicitation for donations as well as the Leech Lake Band are on board with a statue and questioned if this would be viewed as offending the tribal organization. This isn't about personal offense it is about culture and heritage offense.

Bjorklund suggested that staff write a letter thanking the tribal council for their willingness to donate the statue, however, because City Council was not asked prior to fundraising you regretfully don't accept another statue on City Hall property.

Bjorklund further suggested that the letter also read that the City wishes for Otto to donate the Statue to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for display.

Motion fails (1-3)

M/S Wilkening/Moore to approve for the request for the statue goes back to Park Board for reconsideration and if they choose to make a recommendation to Council that will be the Park Boards decision.

Motion passed (3-1)

M/S Wilkening/Hansen to approve to develop a formal policy that set limits or moratorium on public donations for the Park Board and to be reviewed by the City Council.

Motion passed (4-0)

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

#### ➤ Discussion on Tower Avenue

Wilkening reviews the previous City Council meeting that Miners had attended and the next day they followed up with documentation of Power of Attorney. We talked about two location options; both would require a round-a-bout. One was Lucky Moose by Osakis Avenue; that was the original one that was opposed by Miners for strategic location and access for them. This second drawing which is in front of you was developed. Wilkening added that he was hoping that someone representing the Tabaka's interest would be here to discuss with them the financial impact with us going through with that project so they understand they would be assessed a portion of that project. Shaw stated that we currently do not have an easement through the Tabaka property. If the landowner did wish to oppose Tower Avenue coming through he could. Shaw explains further discussion in regards to the discussion at the previous meeting.

Bjorklund reads from the letter from SuperOne dated May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Number one; *'that the City relinquish access granted by MnDot to Hwy 371 from the dead-end/platted but unbuilt highway connections for Summit and Onigum Avenues.'* She questioned what the response to SuperOne would be.

Shaw replied 'No.'

Wilkening stated that by saying no could that be interpreted as saying that there will not be a private access for SuperOne.

Shaw replied that it is broader than that. Reminding the Board that MnDot is not going to allow lights.

M/S Wilkening/Hansen to deny the request to have a private driveway onto the described property.

Motion passed (4-0)

Bjorklund reads the last sentence of the Number two request *'To go forward with this project Super One Foods would need assurance that the City is willing to extend the public utility lines to serve the development.'* She further explained that the City is willing to extend the utility lines at a cost; they are asking for it for free.

M/S Wilkening/Moore to approve if SuperOne goes through with their development that the City will cooperate to have the lines extended at costs to be equitably distributed amongst all property in and near the development.

Motion passed (4-0)

Shaw reads from Number three; *'That the City work cooperatively with SuperOne Foods on required applications and approvals applying established standard City, County, and State process would be followed as this project progresses.'*

Wilkening stated that what they want us to do here is say yes when it is really a developer's agreement item. What I read is they want us to say yes to this without having a developer's agreement in place.

Shaw suggested the wording; yes the City agrees to work with you on the required applications of approval process in the context of a developer's agreement.

Wilkening added, or direct the City to enter into a developer's agreement with SuperOne to facilitate the application approval and permitting process for the new SuperOne Foods.

**M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to request the City of Walker enter into a developer's agreement with SuperOne to work on the application approval and permitting process required for this project.

Wilkening stated that he sees this motion as to direct Terri to work with Miners under a developer's agreement to complete the project. Wilkening added that a developer's agreement requires them to put money down and to compensate the City for costs involved in that. He added that this is a Miner's expense not a City of Walker expense. Terri added that the motion should add the following: to work with you on a developer's agreement once an escrow account has been established.

Motion passed (4-0)

Shaw questioned if they could draft a letter explaining how the abatement process would work if they owned both parcels. Or that we are looking to do the abatement process to offset the costs of the entire project.

Terri suggest that the Council make a motion requesting City staff to work with David Drown and Associates in drafting a letter regarding the abatement process to Miners

**M/S** Wilkening/Moore to approve City staff to work with David Drown and Associates in drafting a letter regarding the abatement process to Miners.

Motion passed (4-0)

Wilkening stated that he thinks their next step is to work with the Tabaka interests to find out truly where they lie.

The Board discusses the possibility of having Ulteig figure out a more accurate number on the cost.

**M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve to direct Ulteig to develop linear footage as a percentage to property as the maps shows and dated 3/13/2018.

Motion passed (4-0)

**OTHER BUSINESS –Mayor Shaw**

Bjorklund announced to the Council that the governor’s tax bill came out with the tax exemption for natural gas; we had a meeting with them this week and I will have more detail in your July 1<sup>st</sup> council packet. The 2020 project will have natural gas lines in it.

Shaw added that Miners should know that as well.

**ADJOURNMENT-Mayor Jed Shaw**

Mayor Shaw adjourns the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

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

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