

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019**

**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  
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent  
Kristen Holly, Self  
Jenn Arnold, Self  
Theresa Bilben, Self

Pamela Smith, City Employee  
Mike Ridlon, Public Works Director  
Erin Haefele, Self  
Mary Andrus, Self

**CONSENT AGENDA-Mayor Shaw**

Senenfelder noted that consent agenda item number 5 Park Advisory Board minutes should be revised to note the discussion of fencing to include both ends of the pickle ball courts.

**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 November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
2. Review and file draft Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments regular meeting of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
3. Review and file September and October 2019 Zoning Administrator report.
4. Review Walker Public Library Board meeting minutes of October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
5. Approve Park Advisory Board meeting minutes of November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
6. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
7. Review and file Public Works Committee meeting minutes of November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
8. Review and file Walker Area Joint Fire Department Minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
9. Approve Cash Balance Report as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
10. Review and file Cass County October/November 2019 Property Tax Settlement.
11. Approve payment of invoice 376018 in the amount of \$9,960.00 to SEH for Walker Municipal Airport Master Plan with Airport Layout Plan.
12. Approve payment of invoice 376007 in the amount of \$8,750.00 to SEH for Walker Municipal Airport Access Road & Parking Lot Rehabilitation Construction Administration/Observation Phase.
13. Approve payment of invoice 88683 from Ulteig in the amount of \$14,769.28 for Professional Services for work performed through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 for Walker - 2019 Street & Utility Improvements-Northside Project UEI Project No. R17.00155.  
Approve payment of Invoice 9136 from Anderson Brothers in the amount of \$9,570.00 for patches on Walker Bay, 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Michigan Avenue  
Motion passed (5-0)

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

Kristen Holly questioned the Council on the enforcement of ordinances. She pointed out that some ordinances are enforced while others are not. She questioned the Council on why they are choosing this specific ordinance of temporary signage to enforce. Holly added that the lack of enforcement of certain ordinances sets a precedent. She stated that if they are changing this ordinance they need to clearly inform the public on the proposed change. She questioned on how many complaints were received by the City about the Walker Bay Live signs and who was making the complaints. She pointed out that through some brief surveys of their own they questioned the attendees of Walker Bay Live on how they found their event and the top three answers were; word of mouth, Facebook and everyone said the signs. She stressed that their 2x4 signs they use are extremely effective and affordable. Holly added that their event size nearly doubled after they changed their signs from the 'real estate' size signed to the chalkboard signs. Holly stated that the likelihood of having 17 signs on a corner on a Thursday night to advertise an event is in reality very slim. She stated that she has not seen any letters to the editor or negative Facebook posts regarding their Walker Bay Live signs. She questioned the Council that maybe their citizens appreciate the signage because it reminds them of the event. She adds that they need to take a step back and look at the signs and what the function of them may be. She stated that Walker is a tourist based economy that doesn't have a lot of extra funding to advertise; effective, affordable signage is critical to support our events. Walker Bay Live would like to respectfully request that the Walker Planning Commission take another look at the temporary sign ordinance. Holly stated that they hope that they look at other tourist and event based cities to find examples that work. She added that they might want to look at allowing larger signs or a 24 hour option. Holly stated that they also do not think that the website to advertise events will not work as an effective way of communication; its expensive and redundant, we have a chamber website that does that already.

### **TRUTH IN TAXATION –Mayor Shaw**

- 2020 Budget discussion and time for the public to comment and ask questions regarding 2020 budget.

No public comments or questions were heard.

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

Bjorklund stated that in the Matter of the Annexation of Certain Real Property to the City of Walker they have received the corrected order approving the annexation. She added that the planning commission is discussing possible zoning for that property.

Wilkening stated the Planning Commission is looking at Rural Residential as a considered zone.

Bjorklund reminded everyone that during this the winter season when staff is trying to plow our roads and that in no case shall any person stand or park any vehicle, leaving such vehicle unattended, upon any public street within the city from November 1 through

March 31 between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. She stressed that she would like to keep everyone as safe as we can as we move forward.

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

1. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of Claim #57279 to Claim #57395 including Voided Check Numbers 57303, 57304 and 57353 and bank drafts in the amount of \$345,931.16  
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve to have DMV write a check to the City of Walker for expenses incurred 1-1-2019 through 11-22-2019 in the amount of \$117,762.46 plus remainder of expenses through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.  
Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of Resolution 46-2019, a resolution to designate the polling place for 2020.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 47-2019, a resolution adopting the final 2020 Budget with 2% increase to the levy.  
Wilkening stated that did a good job at getting that ready and it was laid out in a way that everyone should understand.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
5. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 48-2019, a resolution adopting the final tax levy, approving 2019 tax levy, collectible in 2020.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
6. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve to hire Bonnie Richter as a DMV Clerk at a wage of \$16.00 per hour and upon successful completion of her 6-month probation period an additional 3% salary increase.  
Motion passed (5-0)
7. **M/S Senenfelder/Hansen** to approve of Daniel Salitros successful completion of a six-month probation period with an additional \$1.00 per hour added to his wage.  
Motion passed (5-0)
8. **M/S Senenfelder /Wilkening** to approve of the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to approve a 3% increase to wages for all non –union staff effective January 1, 2020, excluding probationary personnel effective January 01, 2020  
Motion passed (5-0)

9. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of the following Licenses for the City of Walker:

On-Sale

Chase on the Lake, LLC  
Tianna Country Club, Inc.  
Spencer Ross Post 134  
Benson's Emporium, Inc.  
Café Zona Rosa  
Bayside Bar & Grill  
Blue Canoe B&B, LLC  
Lucky Moose

Sunday

Chase on the Lake, LLC  
Tianna Country Club, Inc.  
Spencer Ross Post 134  
Benson's Emporium, Inc.  
Café Zona Rosa  
Bayside Bar & Grill  
Blue Canoe B&B, LLC  
Lucky Moose

Wine

Jimmy's Family Restaurant  
Wine Down  
Village Square

3.2 On-Sale

Jimmy's Family Restaurant  
Wine Down

3.2 Off-Sale

Jimmy's Family Restaurant  
Village Square  
Super One Foods  
Ortons

Motion passed (5-0)

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

1. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of the recommendation of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.  
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to recommend to enforce the current Temporary Sign Ordinance and to promote a webpage that has happenings and events within the City of Walker.

Hansen stated the Kristen has valid points adding that she feels that our temporary sign ordinance is not very accommodating to our events and we need to reevaluate that.

Moore stated that she thinks it should be defined better so people understand it and clean it up and to send it back to the planning commission. Moore questioned if there was a list that the City keeps of whom is complaining.

Bjorklund clarified that complaints on any issue are private information. We have an ordinance we need to enforce. Staff was unclear on how to apply the ordinance without better definition. Staff is looking at a clearer way to administer the ordinance. Wilkening reviewed the history of the ordinance and stated that many years ago the corner of holiday had cardboard signage that littered the highway. The planning commission then crafted an off-site sign ordinance as well as on-site sign ordinance. Wilkening stated that this was brought up in June or July but was decided to get

through the season allowing the off-site signage around town; however, it was also noted at the meeting that as a goal they needed to come up with a solution by January. Wilkening stated that we have an ordinance that doesn't allow for off-site signs and now they are appearing. He stressed that we can regulate the sign but can't regulate the content. He explained that everyone in town could do the same thing and put up off-site signage; Bensons, Wilkening Fireplace, Village, etc. or people from surrounding towns when they have an event could put up a sign. He added that our on-site sign ordinance is prolific. Wilkening stated that most of the discussion at the planning commission meeting was between the newer members; Mary Beth, Seth and Sue. Wilkening noted some of the ideas of City of Walker happenings as a separate webpage and permanent signs with QR codes and website address to visit for area events.

Senenfelder suggested creating a special event ordinance. Wilkening reiterated that they cannot regulate the content of the sign only the size, placement and duration. Senenfelder stated that he does not want to see two or three signs on every corner. Moore stated that she feels that it is important for directional signage for people coming through town that aren't familiar with the area. Hansen stated that times are changing and we are a drive through town and there are events that are once a week, month, every several months, etc. She stressed we have to look at what is happening now and prepare for the future. Hansen also noted that she doesn't think that we should get a webpage to advertise events when the chamber already spends thousands of dollars on a website that already does that. Moore suggested looking into doing a Facebook page for the City of Walker.

Bjorklund suggested giving planning commission some kind of direction on what the council is looking for.

Shaw clarified duration, placement, size and suggested that violations could potentially have their permit revoked or not able to renew and if they could be granted a certain number of signs per season.

Motion failed (1-4)

**M/S Hansen/Moore to approve to send the Temporary Sign Ordinance back to the Planning Commission to review; duration, size and placement.**

Motion passed (5-0)

3. **M/S Hansen/Moore to approve of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to recommend Resolution 50-2019, a Resolution calling for a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed adoption of an Ordinance designating the zoning district of certain real property annexed into the city.**  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission Board of Adjustments to approve Resolution 51-2019, a resolution calling for a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed adoption of Ordinance 2019-06, an Ordinance adding Tiny Homes Subdivision to the Walker City Code.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
5. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to recommend advertising for two open seats for City of Walker residents for the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments that will be expiring in 2020; if no qualified applicants are received the current members can sit up to two consecutive terms. (both seats are in their first term)  
Motion passed (5-0)

**PARKS/AMBULANCE BOARD–Councilmember Moore**

1. **M/S Moore/Senenfelder** to approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board minutes of September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.  
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Moore/Senenfelder** to approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board recommendation to approve the Park Event application from Chase on the Lake/Vendor Village to use the Park from 11:00 a.m. 2/19/2019 through 2/23/2019 11:00 a.m.  
Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of the Park Advisory Board recommendation to approve the Donation Policy.  
Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of the request of the Walker Park Advisory Board to advertise for two Park Advisory Board City of Walker resident open seats.  
Moore clarified that one of the open seats is not up until April.  
Motion passed (5-0)

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

1. **M/S Wilkening/Senenfelder** to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve Resolution 49-2019, a Resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
2. The Public Works department will be windrowing snow to the center of the streets and hauling away the following day. This will allow for less snow piled on sidewalks; areas affected 6<sup>th</sup> street to 4<sup>th</sup> street, Michigan Ave to Front Street.

Senenfelder stated that he would like to give kudos to the Public Works department for the snow clean up.

Wilkening stated that he hasn't heard any complaints as of yet with the windrowing. He added the only thing that he could see potentially becoming a problem is the alley behind Reeds where the semi's back up is going to be tight.

**OTHER BUSINESS –Mayor Shaw**

➤ Reminder of the Holiday hours:

Tuesday December 24, 2019; City Hall will close at 1:00 pm

Tuesday December 24, 2019; Walker Bay Spirits will close at 4:00 pm

Wednesday December 25, 2019; All City offices and businesses will be closed

Tuesday January 01, 2020; All city offices and businesses will be closed

➤ The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Senenfelder requested the public that if they find any ordinances that they pass it on to City staff.

Bjorklund requested that if anything is found please forward that information to herself or Pam so they can get them into the Planning Commission packet for review. The information would need to be submitted by December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT-Mayor Jed Shaw**

Mayor Shaw adjourns the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

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

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