

**CITY OF WALKER  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
Monday February 6, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Scott Bruns**

- Mayor Bruns called the Public Hearing to order at 6:28 pm.
- Council members present: Nelson, Moore, McMurrin, Wilkening
- Council members absent: None
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator  
Sylvia Bakker, City Employee  
John Valen, City Attorney  
Dr. Mary Donohue Stetz  
Edy Asell, Zoning Administrator  
Steve Blake, Blue Canoe  
Ruby J Haugen  
Jamie Richter  
Tommy Larson  
Tom Hill  
Roger Albert  
Irvin Tooker  
Terry Freeman

Wayne Tennis, Police Chief  
Neil Lange, Public Works Director  
Bob Schlieman, Ulteig Engineering  
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent  
Meghan Compton, City Employee  
Travis Baker, Police Officer  
Stephanie Freeman  
Jackie Larson  
Todd Schoeck  
Jon Stewart  
Steve Kuha  
Paul Fairbanks  
Grant Thayer

Mayor Bruns opened the Public Hearing at 6:28 p.m., to receive comments and concerns pertaining to the making of underground utility, street and drainage improvements on Front Street from Fourth Street to Fifth Street, Sixth Street from Minnesota Avenue (Trunk Highway 371) to a point approximately 400 feet south of Michigan Avenue, and Fourth Street from Michigan Avenue to Tower Avenue, pursuant to Minnesota Statute §§429.011 to 429.111. The area proposed to be assessed for such improvement is all abutting and/or benefitting properties. Bob Schlieman, from Ulteig Engineering gave a presentation on cost estimates to complete the project. The estimated cost of the improvement is \$1,624,532.00. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment will be available at the hearing.

**QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS - Residents**

What is the time frame for completion of the project?

Bob stated, Front and 6<sup>th</sup> Street would be first and the goal is to complete the downtown areas by mid-June, then complete the other area once school is out.

Ruby Haugen asked if residents would be assessed if their property does not sit facing the roads in discussion. Per Bob, residents would not be assessed for utilities for service if not on the main roads being serviced.

Dr. Mary Donohue Stetz, school Superintendent, asked if the systems are strong enough that we could defer the project to later dates. Bob stated the area on Front Street and the hole on Sixth Street should be addressed as the street is in very poor condition. The project could be deferred, but engineers can't predict when it will fail. Bob recommended the improvements be made before the system does fail. Dr. Stetz asked that the council consider the financial impact on the school if this assessment was made in full. She requested part, if not all, of the project be postponed to a later date.

Jon Stewart asked if the sidewalk on 4<sup>th</sup> street will be replaced as it was recently put in. Bob stated if the sidewalk is in good condition it will be up to the city on whether or not it is replaced.

How many issues the city has had in the last five years for these particular locations?  
Bob stated there are two areas on Fourth Street that have already been repaired and an area on Sixth Street has rather large hole in the pipe. Neil Lange, Public Works director, said the city is currently monitoring that location on a daily basis.

Ruby Haugen inquired if an entire street needs to be done at one time. Bob responded that it would be advantageous to complete as much of the street as you can at once for better prices and mobilization, but the work could be done in sections. Bob said the residents will have water during construction and can still use facilities for the most part. He stated they will communicate instances to residents, as necessary, if facilities can't be used at specific times.

What will the assessments be for the project?  
Bob said the final amounts of the project would be announced at the final assessment hearing.

After more discussion, Mayor Bruns adjourned the public hearing

**ADJOURNMENT** – Mayor Bruns  
Mayor Bruns adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

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Scott Bruns, Mayor

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