

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER – Acting Mayor Gary Wilkening

- Acting Mayor Wilkening called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance

- Council members present: Nelson, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin
- Council members absent: Bruns
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Pamela Smith, City Employee	Wayne Tennis, Police Chief
Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator	Brandy Ringle, LL Chamber
Ken Bresley	Karl Kiisa
Kristin Loney	Evan Loney
Adam Loney	Kaia Loney
Paul Fairbanks	Terry Freeman
Sherry Kiisa	Kylee Madina and family
Danielle Gohring and family	

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S Nelson/Moore to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 7 as follows, waving the reading.

1. Approve Walker City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2013.
2. Approve Cash Balance Report as of January 2013.
3. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
4. Review and file Cass County Economic Development report.
5. Review and file Draft of Walker Planning Commissions/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2013.
6. Review and file Walker Park Board Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2013.
7. Review and file North Memorial Health Care NMAAS Walker and Walker City EMS Advisory Meeting agenda of February 22, 2013.

Motion passed (4-0)

**PRESENTATION OF MRWA POSTER COLORING CONTEST WINNERS –
Acting Mayor Wilkening.**

- **2nd Place Winner Evan Loney**

SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS – Acting Mayor Wilkening.

Ken Bresley-Airport update.

- The airport is 90 percent complete. The ADA has completed the final drawing. We have had some aerial photos made, and will put maps up at the airport. This spring we will establish turf around the building. The courtesy van still needs a log book and rules and regulations book before that can be used. We are working on both GPS and the Automatic Weather System. The furniture has been selected for the A/D building.

Continuation of the presentation of MRWA Poster Coloring Contest Winners – Acting Mayor Wilkening.

The following contest winners arrived later to the meeting and presentation continued after the Airport Update.

- **3rd place to Kylee Madina**
- **1st place to Danielle Gohring.**

Acting Mayor Wilkening presented the contest winners with framed certificates and gift cards to Subway to the following Walker-Hackensack-Akeley students; noting that the first place drawing is entered for the State MRWA Poster Coloring Contest.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund

None.

PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember Nelson

1. **M/S Nelson/McMurrin** to approve of Resolution 12-2013, a Resolution supporting Leech Lake Area Youth Hockey Charitable Gambling at 412 Minnesota Avenue.
Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Moore, McMurrin, Wilkening Nay: None
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of Claim #47689 to Claim #47743, and Claim #47746 to Claim #47774, Claim # 47776 to Claim # 47794 and bank drafts in the amount of \$150,150.75.
Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of paying Invoice #24562, in the amount of \$21,085.00 to the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust for Workman's Comp Coverage.
Motion passed (4-0)
4. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of Resolution 11-2013, a Resolution approving Donations made to the City of Walker in the year 2013.
Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Moore, McMurrin, Wilkening Nay: None
Motion passed (4-0)

5. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of request by the Accounting Department to transfer \$78,007.24 from the General Checking Account to the Fire Equipment Savings account for Township Contract Equipment payments and donations received.
McMurrin-What are we transferring?
Nelson explains the transfer is the combination of township Contract Equipment amounts and fire equipment donations received.
Motion passed (4-0)
6. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of request by the Accounting Department to transfer \$1,101.94 from the General account (fund 101) to the Legion abatement account (fund 420) for payment of the abatement for the second half of the 2012 taxes.
Motion passed (4-0)
7. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of request of the City Administrator to send 3 staff members to Fred Pryor seminar/trainings in Bemidji at the total cost of \$784.00 plus mileage.
Acting Mayor Wilkening notes that he supports this type of training and believes this training will be beneficial for the City of Walker staff.
Motion passed (4-0)
8. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of request from the Leech Lake Area Chamber for the following street closures for 2013.
 - Sept. 14th – Ethnic Fest
 - 5th Street from MN Ave. to Café Zona Rosa.
 - 5th Street from MN Ave. to behind Heritage Gifts.
 - 4th Street from MN Ave. to the alley behind Benson’s.
 Moore likes the idea of switching between 4th and 6th Street every other year.
Motion passed (4-0)
9. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of allowing Justin Knowles to work safe and sober and night cap shifts paid for by Cass County Grants, these hours will not be used to calculate full time work status.
Motion passed (4-0)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LIQUOR STORE – Councilmember Moore

1. Reviewed and filed Walker Planning Commissions/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2013.
2. **M/S Moore/Nelson** to approve of Walker Planning & Zoning Board’s recommendation allowing for LU-2013-01 Lot Split creation of Lot A and Lot B out of Section 21 and 22, with outlined findings of fact and subject to conditions being added for both Tract A and Tract B.
Motion (2-2) Nays: McMurrin, Wilkening
Motion failed.

McMurrin-What’s the reasoning for to pass this?

Wilkening-My understanding is that at future date Dave intends to trade land with the city.

Acting Mayor Wilkening explains where the physical driving surface is on Tract A. And that this property is in Marine Max's name. Also in the recommendation of the Planning Commission it is noted that Tract A and B have conditions that include having to be attached to a piece of property because they are less than 1500 square feet.

McMurrin-Why wouldn't they come through with the whole plan?

Nelson explains that at this point he sees no harm in this but also notes that the board doesn't have to pass it at this time. And the City should have a better understanding of what property the City of Walker owns.

Moore-I see no harm. Everyone said the same thing at the Planning and Zoning Meeting. We aren't trading anything at this time.

Wilkening-If we end up swapping the parcel, will we (The City of Walker) negate our right of way in the trade? We have to be careful and recognize what we will be doing.

McMurrin states that she is worried that if we pass this now and future Board Members or Planning and Zoning Members that have no idea what this Lot Split consisted of, could potentially make a decision that could do more harm than good to the City of Walker. If the plan is laid out on the table at present time this could be avoided.

M/S Moore/McMurrin to send letter to Dave Cochran asking that he resubmit LU-2013-01 Lot Split with a full scope of plan project to the Walker Planning & Zoning Board.

Motion passed (4-0)

3. **M/S Moore/Nelson** to approve of Walker Planning & Zoning Board's recommendation to approve Dynamic Display sign license application for the Walker Holiday Station Store.

McMurrin- They are moving the sign. Right?

Wilkening- Correct.

Moore references to the plan that was approved. Reminding board members of sign location change and tree/shrub removal.

Motion passed (4-0)

4. **M/S Moore/McMurrin** to approve of Ordinance 2012-10; The Zoning Reclassification from Traditional Residential to Multi-Family Residential.

Motion passed (3-0) Nelson-Abstain

5. **M/S Moore/McMurrin** to approve of Summary of Publication for Ordinance 2012-10.

Motion passed (3-0) Abstain-Nelson

6. **M/S Nelson/McMurrin** to approve the Walker Area Fire Protection Joint Powers Agreement with the changes proposed on exhibit A and exhibit B and pending approval of City Attorney John Valen.

The board discusses the necessity of the JPA (Joint Powers Agreement) needing to be cleaned up a bit. Noting that there will have to be some additions and some deletions on equipment that is not currently included on the JPA.

Moore states that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will be on board with this. But the City Council will have to wait until the end of March for the LLBO's board meeting to find out if they (LLBO) receive approval.

It is noted that John Valen the City attorney has received a copy of the JPA but has not responded.

Motion passed (4-0)

7. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve the Lease Agreement with changes outlined by the Council and pending approval of City Attorney John Valen.

Bjorklund clarifies the difference between the Lease Agreement and the Joint Powers Agreement. The Board discusses the current uses of the building between the Police Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles services along with Non-profit agencies that currently use and rent this building on a regular basis. It is stated that the City should still receive the money to offset the costs of snowplowing and mowing. Nelson adds that City Hall should still act as the point of contact for any nonprofit use of the Fire Hall.

Bjorklund indicates that if they decide to have one person from the Board in charge of booking the Fire Hall, they would need to ensure that there were not double bookings, since City Hall was still an acting point of contact. Wilkening mentions using an electronic calendar of sorts with access codes.

Motion passed (4-0)

8. **M/S Nelson/McMurrin** to approve of transfer of remaining Fire Department General Fund monies and the transfer of \$247,649.94 from the Fire Departments Equipment Savings Account to the General Checking account to disburse to the Walker Area Joint Fire Department, plus or minus any activity at the time of disbursement, upon receipt of completed W-9 form, completion of Joint Powers Agreement and Lease Agreement and upon approval of John Valen the City Attorney.

McMurrin-I think we should not transfer the money until everything is done.

Nelson-I would recommend that we transfer the funds after the Joint Powers Agreement is effective.

Motion passed (4-0)

LIBRARY, PARKS & AIRPORT – Councilmember McMurrin

1. **M/S McMurrin/Nelson** motioned to approve of Walker Park Board's recommendation for installation of (2) 78 watt LED Floods on existing poles at the City Park at a cost of \$2,040.00 plus tax.

Motion passed (4-0)

McMurrin explains that the lights to be replaced are located by the Basketball Court, and deciding on the LED lights was more expensive by in the end cost effective.

Wayne-Anytime you can light up the Park more it prevents vandalism.

Realizing the lights would not be working on a sensor the Board decided that a timer would be a more efficient solution than the currently existing power switch.

Nelson noted that the lights on during all dark hours in the summer and winter would not bother anyone.

The Board thinks that this should be brought back the Park Board to consider LED lights with sensors to be on all dark hours.
McMurrin withdrawals original motion and will take back to the park board to research dusk to dawn sensors to operate the lights.

PUBLIC WORKS, SAFETY & CEMETERY – Councilmember Moore

1. **M/S Moore/Nelson** to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee for replacement of 6 inch butterfly valve on a filter and have Hydrotech Service replace the valve in the amount of \$2450.00.
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S Moore/Nelson** to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee for replacement of a sewer lift pump for Upper Lift Station at the cost of \$27,929.06.
Nelson-Does that come out of the sewer fund?
Bjorklund-This item was budgeted in Capital Projects.
Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S Moore/Nelson** to approve of call for a Public Informational Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:00 pm at the Walker Fire Hall regarding containment and distribution of storm water runoff in the alley between 4th and 5th street on the south side of Minnesota Avenue.
Motion passed (4-0)
4. **M/S Moore/McMurrin** to approve of The Public Works Committee has reviewed the request of the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District for stop signs at the corner of 4th street and Park Avenue. And recommends conducting a speed study in the spring and making a recommendation to the City Council at that time.
Motion passed (4-0)
5. **M/S Moore/McMurrin** to approve of Ulteig working with the City and the Recreational Trail Committee, to establish a route from the Forest Service to the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School.
Motion passed (4-0)

OTHER BUSINESS – Acting Mayor Wilkening

Wilkening introduces the letter from Franz Platner that was in the paper regarding the garbage that was left on Leech Lake after The Eelpout festival. He notes that Franz was going to come to the City Council Meeting but it was evident that it should be brought to the Park Board before City Council. Wilkening states that when he went to pick up garbage that some places were fine and others were a disaster.

Wilkening-We don't issue a permit for anything on Leech Lake, and as far as the Park goes Neil thought there was no issue. I agree that we need the promoter to have a better plan in place.

Ideas were brought to the Boards attention, including dumpsters on the lake, trailers/trucks on the lake for garbage pick-up. It was also mentioned that some thought it was cleaner this year than in past years.

Tennis states that in the end it is the Sheriff's office that has jurisdiction over the Lake. Wayne-Maybe you should have a member of the Park Board and the promoter meet at the Sheriff's office together.

The Board agrees that this needs to be remedied and that better control on these issues needs to be resolved.

Nelson- I have another discussion item.

We need to identify the property that the City owns within the City limits. What are we going to do with it? We can't have people moving into the City Limits and not know what we own.

Nelson states that we need to put something together and have a plan. Bjorklund states that she is already in the process of working on this. The research is more extensive than just including property owned. It will also include what areas have water and sewer. The completed project is requested to be submitted to the Planning and Zoning committee before being submitted to the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT – Acting Mayor Wilkening

Acting Mayor Wilkening adjourned the Regular Scheduled Meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Gary Wilkening, Acting Mayor

Attest: _____
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator