

**CITY OF WALKER
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES ON
ASSESSMENTS FOR TOWER AVE. & 2ND STREET IMPROVEMENTS OF 2007
Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room
Thursday October 18th, 2007 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Walhof

- Mayor Walhof called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Council members present: Fjelstul, Finney, Worth, Wilkening, Walhof
- Council members absent:
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator
Wayne Tennis, Police Chief
Will Hoyt, Landecker & Assoc.
Robert Mallory, Shingobee Twp.
Shirley Mallory, Shigobee Twp.
Jeff Holly
Otto Ringle
Joe Fuhrer, Living Waters Church
Willard Arends

Joanne Mitchell, City Employee
Dean Morrill, Pilot
Mary Beth Mohr
Mary Andrus
Tony Sauer
Connie Kaylor, Shingobee Twp.
Brad Fagerman, Shingobee Twp
Gary Grim, Living Waters Church
John Valen, City Attorney

Mayor Wahlof states that the Walker City Council will receive comments and concerns pertaining to the proposed Tower Ave. & 2nd Street Improvement Projects Final Assessment. Mayor Walhof read two letters received by the council. The first letter was from Kelly and Jeanne Nelson, The second letter was from Adam A. Ripple of Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law, representing Living Water Lakes Area Church.

Mayor Walhof then turned the meeting over to City Engineer Will Hoyt.

Will Hoyt stated that this is the final assessment hearing for the Tower Ave. & 2nd Street Improvement Project. He explained to the audience what improvements had been made, the total cost of the project and how the project was assessed, which is in accordance with the City of Walker's assessment policy. Mr. Hoyt explained that property owners have the option of either prepaying their assessment within 30 days of the adoption of the assessment, or having it certified to the County, which will then show up on their tax statement. The property owner can then pay semi annually for 15 years with interest. Mr. Hoyt then explained to the audience the interest rate. Will Hoyt then stated that he would be available for any questions from the public.

Mayor Walhof then opened up the meeting for comments and concerns from the public. Joe Fuhrer representing the Living Waters Church commented on the Tower Avenue assessments, and protested the assessments, and asked the council to reconsider the assessment, as it does Living Waters Church no good. He stated that land taxes are going up and land prices are falling. Mayor Walhof then asked Will Hoyt to explain how Living Waters Church assessments were calculated. There was discussion back and forth about

the assessments. Joe Fuhrer does not understand why the Church should pay for the Community Center Road.

Mayor Walhof asks for any other comments or questions.

Jeff Holly asked that in the future if the City improved a road that would serve the whole community to assess the whole community and not just the property owners on the road.

Willard Arends stated that on Kelly Nelson's behalf, the road serves the Community Center, not just Kelly Nelson and there is a lot of traffic on the road going to and from the Community Center and not to Kelly's home.

Joe Fuhrer again stated that the improvement did the Living Waters Church no good.

John Fjelstul stated that he felt that Tower Ave gave the Church additional access that it did not have before. Mr. Fuhrer stated that the Church is a non-profit organization and they feel they should not have to pay these assessments.

Mayor Walhof asked for additional comments or concerns from the audience. No more comments or concerns were expressed.

ADJOURN – Mayor Walhof

Mayor Walhof adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:48 p.m.

Brad Walhof, Mayor

Attest: _____
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator