

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
Monday January 3, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER – Council member Wilkening

- Council member Wilkening called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 pm., and turned the meeting over to Administrator Bjorklund, for swearing in of the Newly elected Mayor and Council Members.
- Council members present: McMurrin, Fjelstul, Wilkening, Moore, Johnson
- Council members absent:
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator
John Valen, City Attorney
Neil Lange, Public Works Director
Mary Johnson, Resident
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent
Willard Arends, Resident
Bob Mallory, Shingobee Twp.
Jim Rogen
Tom Hill, Resident
Jane Ekholm, Resident

Wayne Tennis, Police Chief
Sylvia Bakker, City Employee
Edy Asell, Zoning Administrator
Ken Bresley, Airport Commissioner
Terry Freeman, Cass County EDC
Shirley Mallory, Shingobee Twp.
Bob Moore, Resident
Alex Rogen
Joe Sherman
Steve Ekholm, Resident

CONSENT AGENDA – Mayor Johnson

M/S Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 9 as follows:

1. Approve Walker City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2010.
2. Approve Walker City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2010.
3. Approve Cash Balances as of November 30, 2010.
4. Review and file Police Department's Monthly Report.
5. Approve Claim #44106 to Claim #44128, and Claim #44130 to Claim #44137, and Claim #44139 to Claim #44260, and Claim #44262 to Claim #44289, in the amount of \$245,980.68.
6. Review and file Cass County Economic Development Corporation's December 2010 Activity Report.
7. Review and file League of MN Cities Insurance Trust Property/Casualty's 2010 Dividend Calculation Reimbursement.
8. Approve payment of Invoice #18728 in the amount of \$8,655.45 to Ulteig Engineering for design and construction related services for the Cochran's Lift Station Rehabilitation.

9. Approve payment of Invoice #18864 in the amount of \$4,423.76 to Ulteig Engineering for putting together a detailed cost estimate for reconstructing the existing Library Building.

Motion passed: 5-0

SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS – Mayor Johnson

- Ken Bresley, Airport Commissioner Updated the Council on the Airport, and using the engineering firm of SEH and said that Andy Peek had been very instrumental in helping write grants and secure funding for the Airport. About a year ago Andy was offered a job with the State FAA, and accepted the position. The way the FAA works they assign a specific representative to each Airport and we have been notified that Andy Peek has been assigned to be the City of Walker’s Representative, so we look forward to working with him, as he has always had a great interest in our Airport.
- Terry Freeman, Cass County EDC, thanked the Council for past membership, and look forward to you renewing your membership this year.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS/CONCERNS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund

- City Administrator advised the Council about a letter received from Park Rapids, City Administrator Bill Smith, pertaining to a meeting to discuss co-oping of City Assets.

PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember Moore

1. M/S Moore, Fjelstul to approve the following appointments for the year 2011.

2011 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

(Chairperson is automatically on each sub-committee)

A. PUBLIC WORKS: GARY WILKENING, CHAIRPERSON

Water, Sewer and Streets	Char Moore, Jane Ekholm, Volunteer
Cemetery	Annie McMurrin
Weed Inspector	Brian Johnson, Neil Lange
Fire Department	Brian Johnson
Ambulance Board	Annie McMurrin
Police Commissioner	Brian Johnson

B. BUDGET AND FINANCE: CHAR MOORE, CHAIRPERSON

Personnel	Brian Johnson,
Budget and Finance	John Fjelstul
TIF	John Fjelstul

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JOHN FJELSTUL, CHAIRPERSON

Municipal Liquor Store	Char Moore
Municipal Airport	Annie McMurrin, Ken Bresley, Volunteer
Walker Clinic	John Fjelstul
Planning/ Zoning/ Building Codes	Gary Wilkening
Shingobee Twp. / Healthy Communities	John Fjelstul
Parking/ Planning	Char Moore
License Bureau (NEW)	Char Moore

D. PARKS AND RECREATION: ANNIE MCMURRIN, CHAIRPERSON

Library	Annie McMurrin
Park Development/Boat Ramp	Char Moore
Trails	Gary Wilkening
Tree Committee	Annie McMurrin
City Dock Committee	Char Moore

ACTING MAYOR- JOHN FJELSTUL

MEETINGS – PUBLIC INVITED

- ❖ **City Council** meets first Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Walker Firehall. (Third Thursday of the month if needed.)
- ❖ **Planning Commission** meets last Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m., Walker Firehall.
- ❖ **Library Board** meets 4th Wednesday of odd months, 5:15 p.m., Walker Library.
- ❖ **Park Board** meets fourth Tuesday of each month, 4:00 p.m., City Hall.
- ❖ **Public Works** meets monthly @ 5:00 PM
- ❖ **Personnel Committee** meets as needed
- ❖ **Budget and Finance** meets monthly at 10:30 am

Motion passed: 5-0

2. **M/S Moore, Wilkening** to approve Resolution 1-2011, a resolution approving the City's Depositories for the year 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

3. **M/S Moore, Fjelstul** to approve Resolution 2-2011, a resolution designating the Pilot Independent as the Official Newspaper for the year 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

4. **M/S Moore, to table Resolution 03-2011**, a resolution appointing John Valen as the City Attorney/Data Practices Compliance Official for 2011.

Motion died for lack of a second.

M/S Moore, Fjelstul to approve Resolution 03-2011, a resolution appointing John Valen as the City Attorney/Data Practices Compliance Official for 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

5. **M/S Moore, Fjelstul** to table Resolution 4-2011, a resolution appointing Ulteig Engineering as the City's Engineering Firm for the year 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Johnson Nays: Wilkening, McMurrin,
Motion passed: 3-2

6. **M/S** Moore, to table Resolution 5-2011, a resolution approving machine-signed signatures for the year 2011.

Motion died for lack of a second.

M/S Wilkening, McMurrin to approve Resolution 5-2011, a resolution approving machine-signed signatures for the year 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

7. **M/S** Moore, McMurrin to approve Resolution 6-2011, a resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign all State and Federal Airport Grants.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

8. **M/S** Moore, Wilkening to approve Resolution 7-2011, a resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign all State and Federal Grants.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

9. **M/S** Moore, Fjelstul to approve Resolution 8-2011, a resolution approving Workers Compensation for Elected Officials.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

10. **M/S** Moore, McMurrin to approve Resolution 9-2011, a resolution accepting donations made to the City of Walker thru fiscal year 2010.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

11. **M/S** Moore, to table Resolution 10-2011, a resolution appointing Pat Kastning of the First National Bank of Walker Insurance Services, as the City's Insurance Agent for the year 2011.

Motion died for lack of second.

M/S Wilkening, McMurrin to approve Resolution 10-2011, a resolution appointing Pat Kastning of the First National Bank of Walker Insurance Services, as the City's Insurance Agent for the year 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

12. **M/S** Moore, Fjelstul to approve to not waive the Statutory Tort Limits established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson Nays: None

Motion passed: 5-0

13. **M/S** Moore, Wilkening to approve that City Attorney Valen has reviewed Stifel Nicolaus handling of the Fire Relief Fund and recommends that the Council finds no conflict of interest.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: None Mayor Johnson abstained.

Motion passed: 4-0

14. **M/S Moore, McMurrin** to approve the City Administrator and Public Works Director to attend a meeting with surrounding Cities to discuss the possibilities of shared assets with other City's.

Motion passed: 5-0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/LIQUOR STORE – Councilmember Fjelstul

1. Review and file letter dated December 9, 2010 to Gail Levenson, pertaining to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Health Care Initiative Project's interest in exploring opportunity's for a satellite clinic that the AGC Campus.
2. Review and file letter dated December 16, 2010 to Gail Levenson, pertaining to Sanford Health's interest in establishing a new healthcare campus at the AGC site.
3. **M/S Fjelstul, Wilkening** to approve acting as the grant recipient to secure funding for the redevelopment of the former Ah-Gwah-Ching site, and to authorize Cass County Economic Development Corporation to administer the project.

Motion passed: 5-0

4. **M/S Fjelstul, Moore** to approve payment of pay estimate #2 to Tri-City Paving in the amount of \$104,700.21 for work completed on the Parallel Taxiway.

Motion passed: 5-0

5. **M/S Fjelstul, Moore** to approve payment of pay estimate #4 to Tri-City Paving in the amount of \$153,157.76 for work completed on the Parallel Taxiway.

Motion passed: 5-0

LIBRARY – Councilmember McMurrin

1. **M/S McMurrin, Wilkening** to approve Walker Library Board's recommendation to have MaryBeth Mohr re-appointed to be the City's representative on the Kitchigami Regional Library Board.

Motion passed: 5-0

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY/ PARKS/CEMETERY– Councilmember Wilkening

1. Review and file letter dated December 16, 2010 from Amy Klobuchar, United States Senator, to Mr. John Fernandez, Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, urging their consideration of a Economic Development Administration's Public Works Program Grant in the amount of \$320,000.00.
2. **M/S Wilkening, Fjelstul** to approve Neil Lange, Public Works Director's recommendation to send two Public Work's employees to St. Cloud for schooling March 1st thru 3rd, at a cost of \$820.00 plus meals. (Nick, Neil)

Motion passed: 5-0

3. **M/S Wilkening, Moore** to approve Neil Lange, Public Works Director's recommendation to review, discuss, approve and send to legal council a Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy.

Motion passed: 5-0

4. **M/S** Wilkening, Fjelstul to approve Neil Lange, Public Works Director's request to accept quote from M & R Sign in the amount of \$687.24, plus tax and shipping for replacement of missing street signs around town.

Motion passed: 5-0

5. **M/S** Wilkening, McMurrin to approve Neil Lange, Public Works Director's request to accept quote in the amount of \$2,477.44 plus tax from 3D Specialties, Inc. for sign posts and mounts for new street signage and replacement of broken signs.

Motion passed: 5-0

OTHER BUSINESS – Mayor Johnson

- Proclamation by Mayor Johnson. Mayor Johnson declared Willard Arends, as the Official Ambassador for the City of Walker, and presented such with a key to the City.
- Informed the Council of the Town Hall Meeting scheduled for January 6th, 2011 at the Lucky Moose @ 6:30 p.m. to consider the Mayor's agenda for his term in office.
- Mayor Johnson applauded Fjelstul and Wilkening for there hard work on the budget, and balancing the budget.
- Mayor Johnson thanked Neil Lange, Public Works Director and his crew for all the hard work in removing all this snow this year.
- Mayor Johnson thanked his wife Mary for putting up with him and all the people that had faith in him.
- Jane Ekholm asked about the council approving the Arts Grant. Mayor Johnson stated; that you did discuss under the old Council discuss the fact that there would be no grant money available, or matching funds available for the Council of the Arts, and I had asked my grant writer Jane to write the grant for that. We have already been told that we will receive the money. The matching money will come from volunteer organizations throughout the town; it won't cost the City anything, except maybe Neil and I moving some bronze statues in the wintertime. Council member Fjelstul stated; if you were at the last meeting you probably heard that we are not in opposition to it, but we need some time and it needs to go to the Park Board for discussion and the Park Board doesn't have the authority to make decisions without going to the Council and its just a matter of time. There's no way we could possibly get public input by the date that you want, and its not fair to just have a few people have public input into it. It's a good idea and its something I think will come up for discussion. Well we were told that there's grant money available now, and we would be granted that if we had the grant written. Jane has done a beautiful job in completing the writing of that grant, and an extra \$5,000.00 for the City can be used, and we can use that money when we are ready to talk about it at the council and have plenty of input from the public. I don't want to lose \$5,000.00 that we have a possibly of gaining. Council member Moore asked; we don't have to make a commitment on any certain project for the Arts. Mayor Johnson said; we have a time frame that we have allowed, and that would be August or September of 2011, so that gives us plenty of time. Council

member Moore; so there's time for the Park Board to vote and the Council to vote? Mayor Johnson; absolutely. More discussion ensued. Mayor Johnson said; I can't cancel the Town Hall Meeting it's already been in the paper, and when I was discussing my objectives and Jane when I said something about the history walk said she had already taken care of the writing of the grant because she has the experience with that, and we have the matching funds from outside of the City. Council member Wilkening; who authorized her to write the grant? Mayor Johnson; I asked her to. Council member Wilkening; and under what pretense. Mayor Johnson; I'm sorry. Council member Wilkening; that would be a council decision. Council member Fjelstul; you know we discussed this last month, it will get done but there's no way you can round up the information that fast without getting sued, and we don't want to get sued. Mayor Johnson; who's going to sue. Council member Fjelstul; whoever didn't have the opportunity to have any input, it wasn't, we haven't even put a notice in the paper that we were accepting inquiries about what we might want to put in there, and that's got to go through the park board. Mayor Johnson; are we putting it in the park? Council member Fjelstul; I don't know, it doesn't matter. Mayor Johnson; would you if you had \$5,000.00 dollars on the sidewalk, would you walk by without picking it up? Council member Fjelstul; no, no. Mayor Johnson; well this is \$5,000.00 dollars. Council member Fjelstul; I'm not saying we won't consider it, we're just saying let's delay it and go through the process of thinking it through. Anytime you do things without giving any thought to it, and without approval of the City Council, you're subject to a lawsuit in the City of Walker. You just can't do it that way. I don't have any authority to make decisions, the Mayor doesn't have the authority, it's the Council that makes those decisions. Council member Wilkening; we as individuals don't have the right to authorize anybody to write a grant. We as a Council have the right to direct somebody to authorize him or her to write a grant. Mayor Johnson; I'd like to open the discussion then to make a motion, because I have been told by the Minnesota Council of Art, that there probably will not, not necessarily be money available at a later date. There are three other towns that people will be writing grants for, that the money is still available now. So I think that the City of Walker has already accepted grants from the Minnesota Council of Arts. They have done it in the school; they have done it for the summer program. Somebody must have written the grants for those.

M/S Fjelstul, Wilkening to table this for further discussion in the year.

Ayes: Fjelstul, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Moore, Johnson

Motion passed: 3-2

- Jane Ekholm encouraged the Council and citizens attending the meeting to contact our area Legislatures to show support of a Bill in the MN House to provide \$16 million in state dollars to repair the Coon Rapids Dam, as an important ecological purpose in preventing the invasive species of Asian Crap from spreading to watersheds above the dam, including the Leech Lake Area watershed and the valuable walleye fishing industry in this area.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Regular Scheduled Meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Brian N. Johnson, Mayor

Attest: _____
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator