

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015**

**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: McMurrin, Nelson, Senenfelder, Shaw and Wilkening
  - Council members absent:
  - Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent  
Jon Valen, City Attorney  
Pamela Smith, City Employee  
Travis Baker, City Police

Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator  
Neil Lange, City Employee  
Paul Jagger, First National Bank  
Charolette Hines, City Employee

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S Nelson/Senenfelder** to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 11 as follows, waving the reading.

1. Approve Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
2. Review and file draft Walker Planning Commissions/Board of Adjustments Meeting of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
3. Review and file November and December 2014 Zoning Administrator report.
4. Review and file draft of Walker Park Board Meeting Minutes of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
5. Review and file draft of Walker Library Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2014.
6. Review and file Walker Area Joint Fire Department Meeting Minutes of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Agenda.
7. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
8. Approve Cash Balance Report as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.
9. Review and file Cass County Economic Development 2014 annual report.
10. Review and file Cass County's January Tax Settlement.
11. Approve to pay Cass County Highway Department invoice dated 12/31/2014 for concrete, salt and sand usage in the amount of \$4,845.68.  
Motion passed (5-0)

**SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS –Mayor Jed Shaw**

None.

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

Bjorklund states that she has received word from Region 5 that the Storm Water Grant that was applied for was approved. She adds that they will be putting together a work plan with Tim Terrell, and bringing that plan forward to the next council meeting. It is 25% matching grant funds and the hope is all of that will be done with staff time and Region 5 Development time also.

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

1. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve of Claim #50633 to Claim #50708 including Voided Check Numbers 50648 and 50649 and bank drafts in the amount of \$338,743.48.  
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin** to approve of Resolution 05-2015, a Resolution Accepting Donations made to the City of Walker thru Fiscal Year 2015.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Senenfelder, Shaw, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Senenfelder/Nelson** to approve of the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to enter into an agreement with Teamsters General Local Union No. 346 for the years of 2015 thru 2017.  
Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin** to approve to send Terri Bjorklund to MCFOA Annual Conference March 17<sup>th</sup> thru March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Welch MN at a cost of \$220.00 plus meals, lodging and mileage.  
Motion passed (5-0)
5. **M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin** to approve to send Terri Bjorklund and Joanne Mitchell to Payroll Law 2015 Conference in Bemidji on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at a cost of \$149.00 per person, plus meals and mileage.  
Motion passed (5-0)
6. **M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin** to approve to hire Juli Morris as a Part-Time Liquor Store Clerk at 9.00 per hour with an additional .25¢ upon successful completion of 6month probationary period.  
Motion passed (5-0)
7. **M/S Senenfelder/Nelson** to approve of the request of the Accounting Department to transfer \$1,114.08 from the General Account to the Legion Abatement Account for the February 2015 abatement payment to Spencer Ross Post 134.  
Motion passed (5-0)
8. **M/S Senenfelder/McMurrin** to approve of the request from the Cass County Historical Society for a donation ( budgeted \$500.00)  
Senenfelder clarifies that this is an annual budgeted amount.  
Motion passed (5-0)
9. **M/S Senenfelder/Nelson** to approve of Resolution 08-2015, a Resolution Approving an Application for a Premises Permit to Conduct Lawful Gambling at Chase on the Lake.  
Senenfelder adds that this is for Leech Lake Hockey Association.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Senenfelder, Shaw, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)

10. Discussion regarding the proposal to enter into an agreement for criminal prosecution services with Cass County.  
 Valen states that this proposal is exclusively for economic reasons. He explains that the City is spending more than they should on time waited in the court room waiting for cases to be called.  
 Valen-This should save you a considerable amount of money.  
 Wilkening questioned what his compensation is with the City right now.  
 Bjorklund stated that in 2014, for criminal prosecution alone that \$9,700 was paid to the City Attorney.  
 Bjorklund-Our fines were just over \$10,000, so paying the County a third of the fees it would be a savings of \$6,000.  
 Valen adds that he would suggest leaving the effective date up to him and the County Attorney.
11. **M/S** Senenfelder/Nelson to approve of Resolution 10-2015, a Resolution to enter into an agreement for Criminal Prosecution Services with Cass County.  
 Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Senenfelder, Shaw, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None  
 Motion passed (5-0)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LIQUOR STORE – Councilmember Nelson**

1. **M/S** Nelson/Wilkening to approve of the request of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014.  
 Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S** Nelson/ McMurrin to approve of a verbal resignation from Greg Smith for the Walker Planning Commission Board effective January 27, 2015.  
 Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S** Nelson/McMurrin to approve of the recommendation of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to approve of Char Moore and Erin Haefele to fill the vacant seats for the Planning Commission.  
 Wilkening adds that both Erin and Char will be a welcomed addition to the Planning Commission Board of Adjustments.  
 Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S** Nelson/Wilkening to approve of the recommendation of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to approve the Conditional Use Permit LU-2015-01, for a Dynamic Display Sign for First National Bank of Walker with the stated findings of fact and the condition that new sign does not exceed 183.65 square feet as presented in the drawing.  
 Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Senenfelder, Shaw, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None  
 Motion passed (5-0)
5. Discussion regarding the Tande Petition for Detachment; 4.57 acres Walker/Shingobee Township.  
 Nelson states that the Planning Commission recommended denying this request. He explains to the board this was annexed into the City of Walker approximately a year ago.  
 Wilkening explained the reasoning behind the recommendation for denial was because this was already annexed into the City prior to the new owners purchasing this piece of property.

Nelson states to the board that the taxes on this property have doubled since being annexed into the City of Walker. He adds that this may become a problem in the future with other annexations and that people will not want to be annexed into the City for tax reasons. Nelson adds that he doesn't think that this should be detached but he understands their perspective.

The board discussed having a possibility of having a gradual increase in the taxes over a period of time for newly annexed property owners and also the possibility of having more joint ventures like the City has with the Fire Department to ease the bearing of the cost that the City incurs to have Community Shared parcels.

Wilkening questioned abatement in this situation. Bjorklund responded by saying that her understanding of State Statute is that the City does not have the authority to graduate a taxing amount. The Statute dictates that, the County enforces that and you have to pay according to commercial/residential rule. And the rule is more farm land type application.

Shaw-Part of the reason of becoming a city property was to make the property more usable for the business. I agree that it was not a bait and switch type situation.

Wilkening adds that they can't do another annexation for another two more years.

6. **M/S Nelson/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 06-2015, a Resolution of the City of Walker Opposing the petition Detachment of Certain Land Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §414.06.

Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Senenfelder, Shaw, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)

#### **LIBRARY, PARKS & AIRPORT – Councilmember McMurrin**

1. **M/S McMurrin/Wilkening** to approve of Park Board Minutes of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Motion passed (5-0)

2. **M/S McMurrin/Nelson** to approve of the recommendation of the Park Board to approve the application from Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota for overnight camping in the park on August 27<sup>th</sup> thru August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in the upper portion of the Park with the following conditions:

- The group provides two 'Porta Johns'.
- The group provides one dumpster.

Wilkening questions whether or not this is a previous group that has been there before. It is clarified that they have been there before and are a not for profit group.

Motion passed (5-0)

3. **M/S McMurrin/Senenfelder** to approve of Joanne Rand to replace Fred Rogers on the Kitchigami Regional Library Board due to the change of residence Fred is no longer eligible to serve on the board.

Wilkening questions why that committee is different than other committee's that don't allow people that are outside of the City limits to serve on the board. He states that he feels that it would be beneficial if someone from the surrounding townships could serve on the board.

Bjorklund states that it is written into the by-laws of Kitchigami Regional Library.  
Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S McMurrin/Senenfelder** to approve of recommendation of the Park Board to hire John Winters and Erica Frizzell to work with the Park Board to write and submit a DNR recreational Grant for ADA compliant playground equipment at a cost of \$2,960 and a project cost of about \$90,000.

Nelson states that it is a 50% grant, and the idea is to solicit funds.

Wilkening-We do also have money in the account for that.

The Board discussed that they would be replacing the “wood” playground and keeping the “plastic” one and they would need to replace the sand with woodchips along with making the new playground ADA compliant.

Motion passed (5-0)

5. **M/S McMurrin/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 09-2015, a Resolution Approving Application for an Outdoor Recreation Grant for City of Walker Playground Equipment.

Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Senenfelder, Shaw, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)

6. **M/S McMurrin/Senenfelder** to approve of the recommendation of the Park Board to appoint Carl Berg and Charlene Moore to the three year Park Board term.

Motion passed (5-0)

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

1. **M/S Wilkening/Nelson** to approve bid estimate #4204 from Bay Carpet & Tile, Inc. for replacement of flooring in the Walker Ambulance Garage in the amount of \$13,996.48.

Wilkening describes a walk-through that he and Bjorklund did, and they see the need for replacement of the carpet in the Walker Ambulance Garage. He reviews the different bids with the Council.

Nelson-The ambulance generates money for the City. They are our tenants. We need to take care of that building. If we are going to do it, let's do it right.

The board discusses different options of tile and it is noted that there is in-floor heat helping to keep the tile from being slippery.

Senenfelder questions the option to work with Sentence to Serve with the disposal part of the agreement.

Bjorklund states that she will work with Bay Carpet and see if we can coordinate that.

Motion passed (5-0)

2. Discussion of proposed handicapped accessible permanent walking bridge from the end of Fifth Street to the breakwater and financing option.

Wilkening reviews with the Council the proposed bids in the packet. He describes the bridge would start from the end of 5<sup>th</sup> street and continue onto the rock pile.

This would give permanent access out to the rock pile and it would eliminate the safety issues of the yearly instillation and detachment of the current docking system. This would be the first step into turning the rock pile into a fishing pier.

He states that with modifying the TIF district, to use the excess funds instead of turning back to the County for redistribution.

Nelson states his concern with some of the bridge specifications that were included and whether or not they included support posts and what the weight bearing would be.

Lange stated that he discussed the design of the pier with the DNR and their main requirement is the ADA accessibility. The bridge is going to be stronger and safer than what the docks were. Remer dock is in the process of having an engineer draw up plans.

The board agrees that they will want to see the full designed proposed before agreeing on anything. Lange added that he is in the process of looking into the permits that would be required with the DNR.

Wilkening states that working with the DNR, he believes this project will be the catalyst to bring the DNR to the table.

Shaw questions what funds are available for this project. Bjorklund states that \$87,000 is in that account, however it does not mean every bill is in that account at this time. What resolution 07-2015 is doing is reallocating \$60,000 in funds from Tianna Estates to this project.

Bjorklund-TIF funds available for this project would be \$60,000.

Senenfelder questions how long the funds would be available. Bjorklund states that the timing for the TIF district funds needs to be done prior to decertification.

3. **M/S** Wilkening/Nelson to approve of Resolution 07-2015, a Resolution Modifying the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 2-13 within Development District No. 2.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Senenfelder, Shaw, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None  
Motion passed (5-0)

#### **OTHER BUSINESS –Mayor Jed Shaw**

- City Offices and DMV will be closed on Monday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in honor of Presidents' Day
- Community dynamic sign discussion /review and input on working draft use agreement.

Nelson questions who is responsible for taking care keeping track of who is renting or leasing it.

Bjorklund states that the Chamber will be responsible. And keeping track of the finances will be the City of Walker.

Bjorklund-By charging these fees, we hope that will create a base so that 10-15 years down the road we have a base of revenue.

Mayor Shaw states that from his understanding the Chamber will be responsible for day to day input.

The Board debated on running liquor store advertisements along with school or community events.

Senenfelder states that in the Draft of the agreement, it states 'noncommercial messages, no product messages and no ticket prices.'

McMurrin question why the City would invest money in a sign that they would not be able to advertise their biggest revenue generating entity.

Nelson- When you have 2 owners, there will be more complications that will arise from this. I am not in favor of this. Why are we paying \$80,000 for a sign? Nobody has provided me with any factual data that supports that we will generate more revenue.

Wilkening-The conversation of a digital dynamic sign was brought up years ago by the community. What can the community do to assist with developing and replacing the old message board; which is antiquated.

He states the first step in completing this process, was the City redoing our Ordinance. There was support from the Lions and the Legion club.

Wilkening-We can't replace the old reader board with another old reader board. It doesn't make sense.

Nelson states that the current reader board was purchased by the Lions for the Chamber of Commerce. Not for the City.

Nelson-The fact that it sits in front of City Hall, doesn't make it City responsibility. I am not opposed to a sign. I am opposed to a flashing sign that costs way too much money.

McMurrin states that it doesn't make much sense that only non-commercial entities are allowed to advertise, yet larger scale events like Moondance will be allowed to advertise.

Shaw states that larger events that bring in more than 500 people to the area were seen as a benefit to the community.

Bjorklund states the reason why this came to the Council was to see how the Council felt at this juncture regarding advertising for Walker Bay Spirits, since the Liquor Store revenue helps fund so many things within the community.

Bjorklund-No one thinks about what we do with Liquor Store revenue, it helped to do a 0% Levy this year. The Liquor store is important to this community.

The Council clarifies that they would be fine advertising the Liquor store just not the product.

Lange questioned the surveyed location of the current sign may be inside the right of way, conflicting with any future projects that MNDot may have. Wilkening adds that the entire Main Street of Walker would be in conflict.

**ADJOURNMENT-Mayor Jed Shaw**

Mayor Shaw adjourned the regularly scheduled Meeting at 7:21p.m.

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

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