

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
Monday February 7, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Johnson

- Mayor Johnson called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 7:00.
- Council members present: McMurrin, Fjelstul, Wilkening, Johnson
- Council members absent: Moore
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator
John Valen, City Attorney
Neil Lange, Public Works Director
Mary Johnson, Resident
Dick Kolp, Resident
Martha Winter, Resident
Ken Bresley, Airport
Tom Shackman, US Forest Service
Andy Bednarczyk, Resident
Pat Finney, Resident
Lori Stein
Tony Sauer
Alex Rogen
Larry Anderson
Cindy Wannarka
Alice Groth, Resident
Scott Bruns, Fire Chief
Shirley Mallory, Shingobee Resident
Terry Freeman
Steve Mallory
Craig Nelson
Brianna Nelson

Wayne Tennis, Police Chief
Sylvia Bakker, City Employee
Edy Asell, Zoning Administrator
Ken Bresley, Airport Commissioner
Mary Johnson, Resident
Bob Schlieman, Ulteig
Gail Levenson, Cass County EDC
Carolyn Upton, US Forest Service
Steve Bilben, Shingobee Connection Trail
Bob Stein
Autumn Stein
Ken Randall
Audrey Chelberg
Travis Baker, Police Officer
Mariana Vega, Rotary Exchange Student
Theresa Bilben
Bob Mallory, Shingobee Resident
Jenelle Mankie
Klohie Mankie
Rosemary Mallory
Angie Nelson

CONSENT AGENDA – Mayor Johnson

M/S Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 11 as follows:

1. Approve Walker City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2011.
2. Review and file Walker Police Department's Monthly Report.
3. Approve Cash Balances as of December 31, 2010.
4. Approve Claim #44290 to Claim #44322, and Claim #44324 to Claim #44393, in the amount of \$657,545.02.
5. Consider approval of payment of Invoice to Downare Roofing in the amount of \$2,160.00 for emergency ice removal of City Hall/Liquor Store Building on ice dams leaking into sidewalls.

6. Consider approval of payment of Invoice to Andrews Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$540.20 for emergency repair to the heating system at the Ambulance Garage.
7. Consider approval to pay Invoice #2268, to Pete's Garage Door Service in the amount of \$1,048.50 for emergency repair to the Fire Hall Garage Door.
8. Review and file Minnesota Department of Health routine inspection report on the City's Community Water Supply.
9. Review and file letter dated January 11, 2011 from John Carlson, Senator District 4, to Mr. Lee Miller, Region 5 Development Commission, supporting the recently submitted EDA Grant.
10. Review and file Cass County short settlement for January 2011.
11. Review and file Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments draft meeting minutes of January 31, 2011.
12. Addition of # 11 under Economic Development, to direct Planning & Zoning to hold an informational meeting at the Feb. 28th, 2011 Planning and Zoning meeting, regarding the dynamic digital sign.

Motion passed: 4-0

SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS – Mayor Johnson

- Mayor Johnson presented a Key to the City to Walker Rotary Exchange Student Mariana Vega.
- Mayor Johnson presented Certificates to the 1st thru 3rd place winners in the MN rural Water Association/City of Walker's 4th Grade Water Week Poster Contestant Winners.
- Ken Bresley – Updated the Council on Airport Funding for a mower attachment for the Walker Airport. Grant request to be submitted by Feb. 22nd, 2011. Tractor, Blades, Blower. FAA will not fund the mower deck. City's share is about \$13, 500.00. SHE will prepare all paperwork.
- Carolyn Upton/Tom Shackman updated the Council on the Forestry Project, and review of possible road re-alignment.
- Gail Leverson, Cass County EDC updated the Council on working towards re-allocation of grant funding for the Ah-Gwah-Ching Site. Update on Small Cities grant.
- Bob Schlieman, Ulteig Engineering gave a presentation on the South Side Utility & Street Improvements Facility Plan. (Michigan Ave.)

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS – Mayor Johnson

- The City of Walker is a place where hope is alive and well. I see the polite consideration of others every day. I've witnessed people helping others negotiate the slippery sidewalks and icy streets. I see people helping others move snow from their sidewalks and drive ways. I meet cheerful people on the streets all bundled up, quickly moving from one place to another, using what I call the "Minnesota Shuffle," short quick steps so you don't slip on the ice. They say things to me, but it's sometimes hard to hear through their scarves and my earmuffs. I hear of people checking on their neighbors to see that they are weathering the cold temperatures and their homes are heated. It gives each person

in this community a chance to give back to others. I am warmly greeted by people asking me how my job's going and giving me a hearty handshake. I find it enjoyable and humbling.

We have many sharing and caring organizations in the area like: Meals on Wheels, Caring Bridge, Habitat for Humanity, Walker Area Foundation. The Food Shelf and many other groups of volunteers that help make this a unique place to live.

Now we are facing a new set of problems that won't go away as the seasons change. The League of Minnesota Cities projects that cities of every size, in every region, will be broke by 2015 if no changes are made in their spending policies. By the year 2025, cities everywhere in Minnesota will see deficits of 35% in city revenues. Fundamental changes are needed in City planning and spending in order for these projections to be avoided.

Resistance to balancing our City budget cannot make the deficit problem go away. Hollow promises that the economic problems don't reach Walker are false prophets. The time has come for a rethinking of how to pay for our services. The City of Walker has lost many opportunities to take advantage of Federal, State and Private grants, because of lack of knowledge of the grants, a lack of expertise of writing grants, or a resistance of matching Walker's funds to obtain the grants. We need to involve more people in this conversation. We need to involve more people in this conversation. We need more than those people who ate typically involved in making and enforcing public finance policy. The City must change how the current and past ways of budgeting were completed. I ask for all area citizens to become more involved in this process. We must all become familiar with how our tax dollars are being spent. We must all choose to take a responsibility for balancing Walker's finances, like we take responsibility for our own households. The City's budget must make sense and can no longer be a mystery. We must make it easy to read and understand. It must be continually made public so everyone sees all the revenue and spending during the calendar year. After all it is YOUR money, do you want to know how it's spent.

There must be a notion of "buy it local" for Walker to grow and continue to be a County Seat. We must pay our food fortunes forward to our children so they can experience the precious Northern Woods we have grown up in. This is a challenge for all of us. We should ask for bids for all jobs and positions and contracts for the City-not rubber stamp them without making them available to local people and companies.

Our goals for 2011 are a map for Walker. What we do with that map is up to you. My challenge is to continue to prove to you that I have no hidden agenda; no ax to grind; no personal vendetta, only the welfare of our community to improve and grow. I am asking for the public's help. My request goes beyond the City limits for advice. I see no barriers between the city, township, reservation or National Forest. I see people working to make a better place for everyone to live and all to prosper. My campaign promise still is at the foremost of my thoughts: "Look to the future while preserving the past." My hope is that you will come along on the journey with me.

I would like to mention some people at this time, whose personal activities I find especially important to our community. Please excuse me if you are not mentioned this month. There are many other names to come in the future. These people are mentioned in no order of importance:

Fritz Templin-Andrea Johnson-Jeff Holly-Ineke Leer-Orv Rosenberry-Theresa Bilben-Skip Duchesneau-Pat Kastning-Harold Sherbrooke-Merri Mengis-Byron Sagen

Our list of goals for 2011 were a result of Town Hall meetings and many individual visits with me by residents. We need goals to move ourselves forward. Remember these steps in fixing Walker's needs, and achieving residents' goals. Set the Goal-Start the work (Council Assignments are on the list)-Measure the progress-Achieve the goal-Reward the people-Repeat as needed.

That's the formula for our success. Economic failure is not an option. The status quo is no longer adequate for Walker to survive as a County Seat, or a City without debt. Let every person accept the challenge to "achieve our 2011 goals". Let us pull together in the same direction, and experience the success that is waiting for us. Stretch your imaginations. It is so much fun, and you will find just how talented you all are. Thank you for listening.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS/CONCERNS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund

- No Business

PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember Fjelstul

1. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve Wayne Tennis, Walker Police Chief attendance at the 2011 Executive Training Institute on April 4th thru the 7th, 2011, in St. Cloud, at a cost of \$325.00, plus meals, lodging and mileage.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve Cass County Historical Society's request for funding for 2011, in the amount of \$500.00.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve Cass County Economic Development Corporations request for funding for 2011, in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve request from the Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for the following street closures in 2011.

- June 16th – Crazy Days – 5th St. from MN Ave. to Café Zona Rosa.
- July 21st – Crazy Days – 6th St. from MN Ave. to Alley behind Thrifty.
- August 11th – Crazy Days – 5th St. from MN Ave. to Café Zona Rosa.
- Sept. 10th – Ethnic Fest – 5th St. from MN Ave. to Café Zona Rosa.
5th St. from MN Ave. to behind Heritage Gifts.
6th St. from MN Ave. to Alley behind Thrifty.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S** Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve a 1 to 4 day Temporary Liquor License for the Walker Area Community Center for Feb. 26th, 2011.

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve request from the Accounting Department to transfer \$4,423.76 from the General Account to Library Projects Account to pay the Ulteig Invoice approved at the January 3rd. 2011 Council Meeting.

Motion passed: 4-0

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

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Johnson Absent: Moore

Motion passed: 3-0

8. **M/S** Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve Resolution 11-2011, a resolution requesting the Minnesota State Legislature to re-appropriate unspent bonding funds in the amount of \$400,000.00 for the redevelopment/reuse of the Ah-Gwah-Ching Treatment Center Campus to the City of Walker.

Roll Call: Fjelstul, Wilkening, McMurrin, Johnson

Motion passed: 4-0

9. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve sending a letter requesting support of re-appropriation of bonding funds.

Motion passed: 4-0

10. **M/S** Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve the Pay Equity Implementation Report submitted to the State of Minnesota.

Motion passed: 4-0

11. **M/S** Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve sending staff and council members to the 2011 Safety & Loss Control Workshop on March 29th, 2011 in Mahnomon at a cost of \$20.00 per staff/council member, and mileage.

Motion passed: 4-0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/LIQUOR STORE – Councilmember Fjelstul

1. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2010.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve the appointment of Jeff Holly to the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment Board.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to review and file Planning & Zoning Commissions/Board of Adjustment 2011 Work Plan.
4. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to review and file Annual Zoning Report.
5. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to review Comprehensive Plan Goals and Implementation. Mayor Johnson would like to see his list of goals addressed from the Town Hall Meetings Implemented in the Plans.
6. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve the appointment of two Council members to serve on a Committee, along with the same number of Shingobee Township Supervisors, and residents from both communities, for the purpose of researching and possibly working towards orderly consolidation of the two governments.

Motion passed: 4-0

7. **M/S** Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve authorizing sending a letter to the Shingobee Town Board, requesting they consider forming a committee to work with the City of Walker on possible orderly consolidation of the two governments.

Motion passed: 4-0

8. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve Resolution 12-2011, a resolution eliminating a parcel from TIF District 9, located within Development District NO. 2 within the City of Walker.

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

Motion passed: 4-0

9. **M/S** Fjelstul, McMurrin to approve moving forward with securing grant funds for the mower attachment project at the Walker Municipal Airport.

Motion passed: 4-0

10. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve Wendy Drews, Deputy Registrar's attendance at the DL Agent/CSSI Seminar in St. Cloud on April 22, 2011 at a cost of wages and mileage.

Motion passed: 4-0

11. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to direct Planning & Zoning to hold an informational meeting at the Feb. 28th, 2011 Planning and Zoning meeting, regarding the dynamic digital sign.

LIBRARY/PARKS – Councilmember McMurrin

1. **M/S** McMurrin, Fjelstul to approve Walker Public Library's Disruptive Patron Policy.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** McMurrin, Wilkening to review and file Walker Park Board Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2011.
3. **M/S** McMurrin, Fjelstul to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to allow the Leech Lake Area Chamber to use the Walker City Park on August 3rd thru 8th for Walker Bay Days.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** McMurrin, Fjelstul to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to allow the Heartland Wheels Car Club to use the Walker City Park on Sept. 10th, 2011.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S** McMurrin, Wilkening to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to allow the Walker Legion Club to use the Walker City Park on Feb. 25th thru Feb. 27th, 2011 for snowmobile Drag Racing on the ice.

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S** McMurrin, Fjelstul to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to allow the FLW National Guard Walleye Tournament to use the Walker City Park on June 16th thru June 11th, 2011 for a Walleye Tournament.

Motion passed: 4-0

7. **M/S** McMurrin, Fjelstul to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to allow the Walker Rotary to use the Walker City Park on June 1st thru June 6th, 2011 for the LLWT (Leech Lake Walleye Tournament).

Motion passed: 4-0

8. **M/S McMurrin, Wilkening** to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to allow Jim Gurcci to use the Walker City Park on Feb. 16th thru Feb. 20th, 2011 for the Eelpout Festival.

Motion passed: 4-0

9. **M/S McMurrin, Fjelstul** to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to have the City of Walker send Jim Gurcci a letter requesting payment to the City for expenses incurred with snow removal and cleanup for the Eelpout Festival for any upcoming year.

Motion failed: 2-2

10. **M/S McMurrin, Wilkening** to approve Walker Park Board's request that the City transfer \$15,000.00 to Park Capital Projects from the 2010 budget.

Motion passed: 4-0

11. **M/S McMurrin, Fjelstul** to approve the USCC Snowmobile Racing Teams application to use the Walker City Park on Feb. 12th & 13th, 2011 to hold a Snowmobile Race on the Lake.

Motion passed: 4-0

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY/ PARKS/CEMETERY– Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening, Fjelstul** to approve request from Neil Lange, Public Works Director request to do a permanent fix on the insulation in the City Hall/Liquor Store Building to prevent ice dams from building up during the winter, at a cost of \$17,000.00

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S Wilkening, McMurrin** to approve request from Neil Lange, Public Works Director request to pay change order to the Cochran's Lift Station Project, in the amount of \$1,352.48, for moving the alarm light to a better location on Railroad Ave.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S Wilkening, Fjelstul** to approve request from Neil Lange, Public Works Director to purchase new cutting edges for Unit 500 Boss V-Plow from Southside Towing & Recovery, Inc. at a cost of \$520.60.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S Wilkening, McMurrin** to approve request from Neil Lange, Public Works Director to accept quote from Downare Roofing in the amount of \$5,000.00 to repair the roof on the Water Treatment Plant.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S Wilkening, Fjelstul** to approve request to have Terri Bjorklund, Administrator and Neil Lange, Public Works Director to move forward with working on a joint project with Region 5 Development Commission and the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance to pursue possibly placing a Solar Panel on the City Garage.

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S Wilkening, McMurrin** to approve request from Neil Lange, Public Works Director to purchase an auger/sander for unit 503 (Old Plow Truck), from Falls Stainless Steel Tailgate Sander at a cost of \$4,878.84.

Motion passed: 4-0

7. **M/S** Wilkening, Fjelstul to approve quote from Alex Air Apparatus, Inc. in the amount of approximately \$24,824.00 for a new Jaws of Life. The Walker Fire Department Relief Fund has approximately \$13,000.00 from fundraisers to help pay for this.

Motion passed: 4-0

8. **M/S** Wilkening, Fjelstul to approve going out for bid for a Pumper/Tanker Truck for the Walker Fire Department.

Motion passed: 4-0

9. **M/S** Wilkening, McMurrin to approve applications from Jarrod Mankie, Travis Baker, and Neil Lange for the Walker Volunteer Fire Department, bringing the volunteer roster to 24 volunteers.

Motion passed: 4-0

10. **M/S** Wilkening, Fjelstul to move forward with the City researching the possible road realignment to Walker Bay Blvd.

Motion passed: 4-0

11. **M/S** Wilkening, Fjelstul to approve Resolution 13-2011, a resolution adopting the Preliminary Engineering Report, underground Utility and Street Improvements for the Southside Utility & Street Improvements.

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

Motion passed: 4-0

12. **M/S** Wilkening, McMurrin to approve the Preliminary Engineering Report for resubmission of the EDA Grant.

Motion passed: 4-0

OTHER BUSINESS – Mayor Johnson

- **M/S** McMurrin, Wilkening to table letter of support being sent to Mayor Uglem, Champlin, Rep. Larry Howes, Senator Carlson, and Rep. Persell, showing the City's support of MN House Bill HF 153, to provide 16 million in state dollars to repair the Coon Rapids Dam.

Motion passed: 4-0

- Discussed bids being open to all Walker area businesses, contractors, and professionals on work for City Services.
- Discussed snow removal during the 3rd largest snowfall on record.
- Discussed job shadowing the City of Walker Employees.
- Discussed the City working towards itemized reports.
- Discussed using the list of goals for 2011 adopted by the January 6th, 2011 Town Hall Meeting as a map for Walker's future planning.
- The Walker City Hall, and DMV will be closed on February 21, 2011, in honor of President's Day.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Regular Scheduled Meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Brian N. Johnson, Mayor

Attest: _____
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator

