

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
Monday March 2, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER – Acting Mayor Fjelstul**

- Acting Mayor Fjelstul called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- Council members present: Fjelstul, Finney, Wilkening, Worth
- Council members absent: Mayor Walhof
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator  
Wayne Tennis, Police Chief  
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent  
Edy Asell, Planning & Zoning  
Otto Ringle, Park Board  
Jesse LeBlanc, Police Officer

Sylvia Bakker, City Employee  
John Valen, City Attorney  
Robert Schlieman - Ulteig  
Willard Arends, Resident  
Cindy Wannarka, Leech Lake Chamber

**CONSENT AGENDA – Acting Mayor Fjelstul**

M/S Finney, Worth to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 12 as follows:

1. Approve Walker City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2009.
2. Approve Cash Balance Report as of January 31, 2009.
3. Approve Claim #41052 to Claim #41096, Claim #41096 to Claim #41115, and Claim #41116 to Claim #41181, in the amount of \$826,298.72.
4. Review and file Walker Police Department's Monthly Report.
5. Approve payment in the amount of \$1,917.61 to Cass County Highway Department for salt for road maintenance.
6. Approve payment in the amount of \$1,359.71 to Swanson's Repair for work completed on repairs to Fire Truck #707 & #708.
7. Approve payment of Invoice #14857 in the amount of \$23,803.00 to the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust for the City's Workers Compensation Premium.
8. Approve payment of Invoice #ARLET200951 in the amount of \$800.00 to Arrowhead Region Law Enforcement training for yearly training.
9. Reviewed and filed Memo on a Joint Legislative Conference for Cities, Counties and Townships.
10. Reviewed and filed the Final Contract Agreement with Ulteig.
11. Reviewed and filed Cass County Sheriff's Office 2008 Activity Listing.
12. Addition of Liquor Liability in the amount of \$1,500,000.00, under Personnel, Budget & Finance, tabled at the February 2, 2009 council meeting.

Motioned passed: 4-0

## **SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS – Acting Mayor Fjelstul**

- Otto Ringle gave a presentation on the Pathway of Time to the Walker City Council. When I first presented this idea of the Pathway of Time, last spring and the idea was tabled because we wanted to work it into a five year plan, that the Park Board has been working on, and I just wanted to show you that the Park Board is working on a five year plan, and we are planning on this Pathway of Time with everybody's approval and the steps that it takes that it would fit into the plan. During the past summer that I have been working on prices of sculptors, we have a tremendous opportunity to do this because of this, if you watched the news tonight everybody is gloom and doom and the sculptors around the country are in the same situation, there all crying and looking for work. When I first started pricing out these sculptors they were up in the range of about \$30,000.00. Most wanted at least \$15,000.00, and now there down to three sculptors. Robert Talbot, David Tamborino, and Joel Randell in probably the range that we could afford. Joel Randell's bid is before us, \$7,833.00 and I checked out his references, he gave me quite a few references of work that he has done, and photographs of work that he has done and he is really an artist.  
In December the subject was brought up again from the Park Board and the Council approved, I think December 18<sup>th</sup>, approved that we begin work, and as I said this has been working into a five year plan, and we are hoping the this year accomplish the Pathway. In 2010 we planned on putting in the steps this year but funds didn't become available, so we're hoping to be able to do that next year in 2010. As you know the Shingobee Trail Connection is working on Phase I and II in 2011, and phases III, IV, & V in the year 2012, and then the underpass the US Forestry is working on, there thinking that, that would happen around 2013. Now the Park Board has many other projects that we have been thinking about and there attached on the second page, but I won't take the time to go thru all of that.  
At this time the Park Board would respectively request approval of the attached brochure. The brochure has the drawing the sculptor did of the six statues and underneath each statue is the history that I have picked out of encyclopedia, and this of course, the subject can be changed, but I would like to recommend approval of this brochure so we can continue on with the project.  
Acting Mayor Fjelstul, stated that if any one had questions of Otto, that it would come up again under Parks & Rec. and action would be taken at that time.
- Bob Schlieman – City Engineer gave the council an update on the projects he is working on.  
One thing I want to briefly touch on is the Forestry Service Site and Excess Option II. Gary and I attended a meeting with the Forest Service and MNDOT and I put together a schematic, put together some slopes, and some information regarding that, as well as some information regarding the bike trail, the proposed bike tunnel. We've also put together some profile information, and we are actually just waiting for a response from MNDOT as far as if we do install the bike tunnel at this location how long of a distance we would have to go to have to replace Trunk Hwy 371. So that's one thing we have been working on, the second

one is extension of the snowmobile/bike trail thru the City. We were here earlier this month and took a look at that, and we are actually starting to put together some concept information regarding that if the City wants to keep going on that, and Terri the next thing would probably be to come over and sit down with you and maybe some of the staff members and see exactly what your thoughts are, possibly of closing streets, if there's an option for closing streets, so we can take into consideration things like that.

Other things, Capital Improvement Plan, Mapping, we are going to hope we get a Work Order approved here later tonight for moving forward with that. We have got a lot of information from Cass County already, We've actually started putting a few documents together and once we get a work order approved for that, I think we can move forward pretty quickly on that. Get the City some Utility Maps and then decide what we want to move forward with, as far as the Capital Improvement Plan. How detailed do you want to get. So those are just the things that we have been working on. We have reviewed some documents for Terri regarding the Ah-Gwah-Ching Water Tower, Lift Station, Watermain. We have talked about some of those things. It's been working out great. Terri just sends me an e-mail, and we look at it and send back the information and we provide those services most of the time at no charge.

Administrator Bjorklund informed the Council that at this point last month we had given Ulteig Engineering permission to go ahead with the bunnel information for the next Forest Service Meeting, and what I gave you was the contract not to exceed \$5,000.00 dollars, and so you are aware of what they are going to produce within that contract.

Bob Schlieman Ulteig Engineering said that one thing is that we just put not to exceed \$5,000.00. We don't know exactly what it's going to entail, what we plan to do actually is submit that document that I showed you to MNDOT, get their comments back on it, submit it to the Forestry Service, so hopefully by that next meeting in April Gary, when we sit down, MNDOT's seen it, you've seen it, when we get done we will send it to the City as well, everybody has seen it, and commented on it, so when we sit down everybody knows what's going on. More discussion ensued.

#### **CITY STAFF COMMENTS/CONCERNS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund**

- Kitchigami Regional Library Contract.
- Ambulance floor contract has been finished. A couple of questions have been e-mailed back to Terry Cyr about the slope of the interior wall, and how long the sealant will last, and I am waiting for a response from him before I authorize cutting that check.
- Outline of the Mapping & Capital Improvement Plan.
- I received this morning a request for proposal outline for the Ah-Gwah-Ching lift station. I forwarded that to Bob this morning, he and Jerry took a look at it and e-mailed it right back to me with some suggestions, some very good ones that I never would have thought of, so there on Bob Yochum's desk to be included in

the RFP's, with the contract, and once I have the contract I will get Public Works together to take a look at that.

- Ulteig's Contract
- Meeting in Backus for Election Reform.

**PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember Fjelstul**

1. **M/S** Finney, Worth to approve a 1 to 4 day temporary Liquor License for the Walker Area Community Center for March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Wilkening, Finney to approve a 1 to 4 day temporary Liquor License for the Walker Area Community Center for April 18, 2009.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to approve a 1 to 4 day temporary Liquor License for the Walker Area Community Center for May 2, 2009.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** Finney, Worth to approve Terri, Joann, Nick and one Police Officer attending the 2009 Safety & Loss Control Workshops April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Mahnommen at a total cost of \$100.00, plus mileage.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to approve Terri & Sylvia attending the Alcohol & Gambling Liquor License Training to be held March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 in Park Rapids at a cost of meals & mileage.

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S** Wilkening, Finney to approve Walker Personnel, Budget & Finances recommendation to allow the Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce to close streets on the following dates.

June 11<sup>th</sup> – Crazy Days – 5<sup>th</sup> Street from MN Ave. to Café Zona Rosa

July 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – Crazy Days – 6<sup>th</sup> Street from MN Ave. to the Alley.

Aug 13<sup>th</sup> – Crazy Days – 5<sup>th</sup> Street from MN Ave to Café Zona Rosa.

Sept 12<sup>th</sup> – Ethnic Fest – 5<sup>th</sup> Street from MN Ave to Café Zona Rosa.  
5<sup>th</sup> Street from MN Ave to behind Heritage.  
6<sup>th</sup> Street From MN Ave to Alley.

Motion passed: 4-0

7. **M/S** Finney, Worth to approve having the City Administrator advertise for proposals for the City's appointed Insurance Agent.

Motion passed: 4-0

8. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to approve the Cass County Historical Society request for an annual monetary gift in the amount of \$500.00 for the year 2009.

Motion passed: 4-0

9. **M/S** Wilkening, Finney to approve Ulteig's work order R09.00326-1, mapping and five year Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion passed: 4-0

10. **M/S** Wilkening, Finney to continue with the \$1,000,000.00 dollar Liquor Liability Insurance to the City's Licensed Liquor Establishments.

Motion passed: 4-0

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/LIQUOR STORE – Councilmember Wilkening**

1. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to approve Walker Planning Commissions Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2009

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Wilkening, Finney to review and file Walker Planning Commissions Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2009

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to review and file Planning & Zoning Annual Report for 2008.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to approve Pat Finney's attendance at a Home Occupation Training Seminar March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at a cost of \$55.00, plus mileage. (Approximately \$49.00). We have \$1,250.00 in the training budget.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S** Wilkening, Finney to approve up to 3 members of the Planning Commission attending the Basics of Planning & Zoning on April 8<sup>th</sup> in Little Falls at a cost of \$375.00, plus travel expenses. We have approximately \$1,146.00 in the training budget.

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S** Wilkening, Finney to approve the acceptance of the Comprehensive Plan Update Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Motion passed: 4-0

7. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to approve expending funds from the designated Walker Connection Trail Fund to pay for work order #R09.00327-1, not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Motion passed: 4-0

**PARKS & RECREATION/LIBRARY – Councilmember Worth**

1. **M/S** Worth, Wilkening Reviewed and filed Walker Park Board Meeting Minutes of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Worth, Finney to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation approving the plan for the Pathway of Time.  
Zoning Administrator discussed the need for it to fit into the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion Failed: 4-0

More discussion ensued. Audio on File.

- **M/S** Wilkening, Finney to direct the Park Board to stop any forward movement on the Pathway of Time.

Motion passed: 4-0

- **M/S** Worth, Wilkening to approve all donations for the Pathway of Time be returned to the donors.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Worth, Finney to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Bev Jorland from the Walker Library Board. Terri to send Thank you for her years of service.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S** Worth, Wilkening to table Library Board's recommendation to appoint someone to the Walker Library Board, to serve the remainder of Bev Jorland's term.

Motion passed: 4-0

**PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY/ CEMETERY– Councilmember Finney**

1. **M/S** Finney, Worth to review and file Walker Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes of Feb. 11, 2009.
2. **M/S** Finney, Wilkening to approve Walker Cemetery Board's recommendation to have Carol Smith fill the open position on the Walker Cemetery Board.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Finney, Wilkening to approve Walker Cemetery Board's recommendation to pre-pay Emerald Lawns for the spring/fall maintenance in the amount of \$1,039.20. This is a savings of \$43.30.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** Finney, Worth to approve quote in the amount of \$1,675.75 from Lindy's Plumbing for the RPZ Backflow preventor repair and replacement.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S** Finney, Wilkening to approve the purchase of a new handheld & cradle in the amount of \$5,725.00 from Northern Water Works Supply for the Water/Sewer Billing.

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S** Finney, Wilkening to approve quote in the amount of \$9,412.00 to install electric ballast & bulbs in the following locations. Fire Hall, Maintenance Shop, Library & Airport.

Motion passed: 4-0

**OTHER BUSINESS – Acting Mayor Fjelstul**

**ADJOURNMENT – Acting Mayor Fjelstul**

Acting Mayor Fjelstul adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

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John Fjelstul, Acting Mayor

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