

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER –Mayor Scott Bruns

- Mayor Scott Bruns called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
 - Council members present: Bruns, McMurrin Moore, Nelson and Wilkening
 - Council members absent:
 - Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Wayne Tennis, Police Chief
Neil Lange, Public Works Director
Pamela Smith, City Employee
Wendy Navratil, Circle of Time
David Kellogg
Chris Thorson, Ulteig

Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent
John Valen, City Attorney
Mara Loomis, Circle of Time
Bill Pirkl, MnDOT
Travis Baker, Police

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S Moore/Wilkening to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 11 as follows, waving the reading.

1. Approve Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of March 3rd, 2014.
 2. Review and file Draft of Walker Park Board Meeting Minutes of March 25th, 2014.
 3. Review and file Draft Walker Planning Commissions/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of March 31st, 2014.
 4. Review and file Cass County Economic Development report.
 5. Approve Cash Balance Report as of February 28th, 2014.
 6. Review and file Cass County Sheriff's Office 2013 Annual Report and Reports of Calls for Service.
 7. Approve to pay Cass County Auditor for 2014 Property Tax on the Ambulance Building in the amount of \$9,868.00.
 8. Approve to pay Electric Pump for Emergency repair for the VFD panel that failed at the lift station in the amount of \$6,319.70.
 9. Approve to disburse \$1,631.80 of the Todd County Grant Funds to Next Innovations, to begin production on the signs and post for the Shingobee Connection trail; upon completion the remaining \$1,631.80 will be paid from the remaining Grant Funds.
 10. Approve to pay Young Excavating, Inc. \$5,438.50 for emergency repair of the broken water main on Michigan Avenue.
 11. Approve to pay Larry's Auto & Custom Detailing for Removal and Installation of Police Equipment for the new squad car in the amount of \$1,805.00.
- Motion passed (5-0)

SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS –Mayor Scott Bruns

➤ Mara Ringle-Circle of Time

Mara Ringle states that she is standing in for her father Otto Ringle whom was previously scheduled to present to the Council. Mara refers to the copy of photos she submitted to the Board. One picture is showing where the placement of plants is requested around the statues. The other is of a standing light pole by the statues on the front lawn of City Hall; requesting that an additional light be added to the existing pole to focus on the sculptures at night.

McMurrin- I thought this was already lighted?

Wilkening questions the change in request for the flood light that was originally requested to be on top of the Liquor Store sign.

Mara explains that the light pole located closest to the statues may be a better location for the light.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Bruns called the Public Hearing to order at 6:05 p.m.

Wilkening reviews where the proposal to Vacate is located. He states that this request was brought to the City Engineer for review, noting that most Engineers would normally oppose of a request for vacate. However, in this case the City Engineer found no adverse impact on the City of Walker and supported granting the request to Vacate.

Wilkening- It is a dead-end Alley. It will never be able to be opened up. Its value to the City is non-existent.

There were no other public comments or suggestions.

Public hearing closed at 6:09 p.m.

➤ William Pirkl - MnDOT, 2015 Hwy 371 project

Mr. Pirkl from the Transportation Division at MnDot reviewed several options for an upcoming 2015 Hwy 371 preservation project. He stated that one option is for a turn lane to be constructed at the intersection of 10th Street and Minnesota Avenue. The turn lane would be continuous and parking would have to be eliminated on each side. The City would have to pass a Resolution for Elimination of Parking before MnDot would be able to move forward with this phase of the project. Pirkl discusses the level of funding needed for several projects in our District and the amount of funding being allocated for such. Wilkening asks if there is anything that the City can do to help receive funding for our District. Pirkl states that writing letters of support to Craig Collison, District Engineer Bemidji and Dan Anderson, District 3 Engineer Baxter.

STAFF COMMENTS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund

Terri Bjorklund announced that there would be a change of staffing at North Memorial Ambulance Service. Dennis Mackendenz will no longer be heading the Walker or the Park Rapids offices.

City Hall offices will begin flooring on Friday April 11th and the new desks are scheduled to arrive on Wednesday April 14th. This will be a major move for City offices and its staff during that week, anything that can be done to alleviate work load for that week would be appreciated.

PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember Nelson

1. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of Claim #49326 to Claim #49428 and Voided Check Numbers 49350, 49351, 49354 and 49376 and bank drafts in the amount of \$145,650.44.
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Nelson/Wilkening** to approve of the request from the Circle of Time Committee to plant a row of flowers around the Circle, maintained by the funds from the Endowment Fund mentioned above.
Kelly questions whether or not an agreement should be drafted.
Bjorklund states that she would recommend having memorandum of understanding between the Circle of Time Committee and the City of Walker.
Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Nelson/Wilkening** to approve to erect a flood light to the top ~~the Liquor Store sign~~ of the light pole, which would shine year around down on the Circle-not toward the highway. The expense of power to be paid for by the same fund. The Board discusses that more information on this is needed before approval, it is suggested that it go before the Public Works Committee before being recommended for approval.
Motion failed (0-5)
4. Nelson motioned for a Pledge of \$1000.00 donation from the City to have the words, “City of Walker” listed on the bench as a donor. This could be paid at the rate of \$100/mo for the next ten months.
Motion dies due to lack of second.
5. **M/S Nelson/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 10-2014, a Resolution Accepting Donations made to the City of Walker Thru Fiscal Year 2014.
Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Moore, Bruns, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None
Motion passed (5-0)
6. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of the request from the Accounting Department to transfer \$2,000.00 from the Police Alcohol Savings account to the Police Alcohol checking account.
Motion passed (5-0)
7. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve of the request from the Accounting Department to pay the Legion for the 2nd half of 2013 tax abatement in the amount of \$1,060.30.
Motion passed (5-0)
8. **M/S Nelson/Wilkening** to approve not to waive the statutory Tort limits established by MN Statute 466.04.
Motion passed (5-0)
9. **M/S Nelson/Wilkening** to approve of the request from WHA Community Education for a donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 to help fund the Summer Recreation Program.
Wilkening states that this is something that the City did budget for.
Nelson questions the Contract for Services included in the packet.
Bjorklund explains that this is something that is required in order to donate the funds in order to expend the funds legally.
Motion passed (5-0)

10. **M/S Nelson/Moore** to approve to have Landt Auto Body Plus repair damage on the Police Truck.
Bjorklund states that it has been turned into the Insurance Company.
Motion passed (5-0)
11. **M/S Nelson/McMurrin** to approve of the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to hire Janice Pfarr for the Motor Vehicle Clerk position at a rate of \$11.50 per hour and a .50 cent increase upon successful completion of the 6 month probation period.
Motion passed (5-0)
12. **M/S Nelson/McMurrin** to approve to send Terri Bjorklund and Charolette Hines to a Planning and Zoning for Resources Protection Workshop in Detroit Lakes on April 30th, 2014 at a cost of \$50.00 plus mileage.
Motion passed (5-0)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LIQUOR STORE – Councilmember Moore

1. **M/S Moore/Wilkening** to approve of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes of January 27th 2014.
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Moore/McMurrin** to approve of Resolution 11-2014, as recommended by the Planning Commission Board of Adjustments to vacate a portion of an Alley lying between Lots 5-12 and Lots 13-20, Block 19, Original Plat of Walker.
Roll Call: Ayes: Nelson, Moore, McMurrin, Wilkening Nays: None
Motion passed (5-0)

LIBRARY, PARKS & AIRPORT – Councilmember McMurrin

1. **M/S McMurrin/Moore** to approve of the Walker Park Board Minutes of February 18th, 2014.
Motion passed (5-0)

PUBLIC WORKS, SAFETY & CEMETERY – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening/Bruns** to approve to compensate Mike Nelson for \$554.98 for costs incurred because of a sewer backup and a water line freeze.
Councilmember Nelson dismisses himself from this portion of the meeting.
Wilkening explains the request submitted by Mike Nelson.
McMurrin-Why is this our fault?
Wilkening stated that he believes that it is dual responsibility; if the City line wasn't running so slow then sludge wouldn't have backed into his sewer line.
Neil noted that with everyone running water a bunch of rags came down the hill and got caught in the roots in his line. That line has been looked at recently and that line has been cleaned frequently.
McMurrin stated that it is not fair to take care of one person then not do the same for another. This cold weather has caused a lot of people in Walker to freeze and have sewer issues. She suggests having him turning this claim into his Insurance Company. Bjorklund stated that he has, but the Insurance Company warned him about submitting small claims.
Moore expresses concern for approving this one and approval for all.

Wilkening stated that Public Works did their job and he is in no way faulting them.

Bruns notes that he believes that we do have some responsibility.

McMurrin stresses that she believes that this does not fall on the responsibility of the City and that he should check with his Homeowners Policy for reimbursement.

Motion passed (3-1)

Councilmember Nelson returns to the meeting at this time.

2. **M/S** Wilkening/Nelson to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to hire Analytical & Consulting LLC, for the writing of the amendment to the Wellhead Protection Plan at a base fee that includes four formal meetings in Walker at \$6,500.00. If any additional formal meetings are required in Walker the cost would be at \$250.00 per meeting (should not be needed).

Motion passed (5-0)

3. **M/S** Wilkening/Nelson to approve of the recommendation of Public Works to accept the request for a street closure located across from the American Legion between 4th and 5th Street for the 4th Annual Ride for the Vet's on Saturday August 23rd, 2014.

Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S** Wilkening/McMurrin to approve of the request from Public Works Committee to accept the quote from Electric Pump for the repair of the Muffin Monster at a cost of \$10,219.00; the average replacement time is 7 years, this one has been in use for 11 years.

Motion passed (5-0)

5. **M/S** Wilkening/McMurrin to approve to have Administration Draft a letter in response to Shingobee Township's request regarding the Ah- Gwah Ching Road; stating that the City of Walker will be patching areas of necessary repair in conjunction with the Forest Service Tunnel Project and will not be resurfacing the entire road at this time.

Motion passed (5-0)

OTHER BUSINESS –Mayor Bruns

Bruns recommended drafting a letter to contact State Representatives regarding the Sales Tax Increase. Nelson states that this was passed over two years ago with overwhelming support, the City needs that money to do what we need to do.

The regular City Council meeting was closed at 7:05 p.m. for attorney client privilege due to 6th Street Assessment litigation.

The closed portion of the meeting was closed and the regular meeting reopened at 7:06 p.m. the regular meeting was then closed at 7:28 p.m.

Scott Bruns, Mayor

Attest: _____
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator