

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
Thursday April 15, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER – Acting Mayor Wilkening**

- Acting Mayor Wilkening called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- Council members present: Finney, Wilkening
- Council members absent: Fjelstul, Worth, Walhof
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator  
John Valen, City Attorney  
Edy Asell, Zoning Administrator  
Cindy Wannarka, Leech Lake Chamber  
Carolyn Upton, US Forest Service

Wayne Tennis, Police Chief  
Sylvia Bakker, City Employee  
Neil Lange, Public Works Director  
Travis Baker, Police Officer  
Carl Berg

**CONSENT AGENDA – Acting Mayor Wilkening**

No Business – No Quorum

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – Acting Mayor Wilkening**

Acting Mayor Wilkening opened the Public Hearing to receive comments and concerns pertaining to the proposed Land Exchange between the City of Walker and US Forest Service.

Carolyn Upton, from the US Forest Service explained to the Council and audience the proposed Land Exchange, and where the property is located. Council member Wilkening said, “Carolyn you might want to touch base on the approximate evaluation of the properties.” Right, we did not do a specific valuation of the property’s, the process we used led us to value those property’s in saying those property’s are in approximate equal value, and less than \$150,000.00, for the categories that we work within, and we think that the value’s came out good, because our piece has a lease with the City, and your piece has a lease with us, and they are approximately the same size, and they are both centrally administrative piece’s. So that’s how we got the values or approximate values. Carolyn Upton asked if the City was going to provide any comments on those draft documents. City Attorney John Valen said that he was concerned about Attachment A. City Administrator Terri Bjorklund, explained that we had to close the Public Hearing and then the Council and City Attorney could discuss the documents.

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING – Acting Mayor Wilkening**

Acting Mayor Wilkening closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m. and reconvened the regular scheduled meeting.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Council member Wilkening**

Council member Wilkening stated that because we didn't have a quorum we couldn't take any action on the issue but we sure could discuss it, and I certainly would like to hear our City Attorney's view on the documents from the Forest Service.

City Attorney stated, "from my understanding of this whole situation the Federal Government has leased this property for thirty years". Carolyn Upton, stated, "correct". "Inaudible" Carolyn Upton, "We did have our man talk to our Attorney In Milwaukee, and the indication is yes they would be willing to drop this. We are going to have to start a paper trail if we could get something from you saying you understand that you have never occupied this property, and you would like us to drop this, hence to start the paper trail for dropping it. Attorney Valen said that could be done.

Council member Wilkening said another thing that the Forest Service would need to supply to the City a letter in regards to the Hazardous Waste. "Inaudible". Is that correct. Carolyn Upton, I don't think so. I know we need to declare the Skunkhouse Property is free of Hazardous Waste. Council member Wilkening. "That was it". I just thought I would bring it up for discussion cause I don't want any other issues coming up. Is there any thing additionally that we would need from the Forest Service. City Attorney Valen said well the agreement says that each is going to provide the other with documentation of the existing land according to Hazardous Substances. I think stating that the City will be relieved of that obligation. That's not a mirror image either, that the City would want something. This party's lease has been pretty short term.

Carl Berg said I have a question for you. Doesn't the Statue allow the previous owner to be responsible for any clean up of any Hazardous Waste, if acquiring a piece of property from XYZ, that they are still responsible? What is the purpose of the document the City wants, cause the Statue covers who is responsible. City Attorney Valen said the Statue isn't that black and white, that it has to do with the use of the property. My point is the City has occupied the other piece for a short period of time, and I'm sure the City wants to make sure there are no Hazardous Substances

Acting Mayor Wilkening asked if there were any other questions from the Council?

**ADJOURNMENT – Acting Mayor Wilkening**

Acting Mayor Wilkening adjourned the Regular Scheduled Meeting at 7:14 p.m.

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Gary Wilkening, Acting Mayor

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