

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER –Mayor Shaw**

- Mayor Jed Shaw called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 6:00p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
  - Council members present: Haefele, Senenfelder, Shaw and Wilkening
  - Council members absent: McMurrin
  - Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, City Administrator  
Chris Thorson, Ulteig  
Wayne Tennis, Chief of Police  
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent  
Bill Ofstedal, Rock Garden  
Erica Frizzell, FOP  
Mark Vondenkamp, Portage Brewing

John Valen, City Attorney  
Pamela Smith, City Employee  
Neil Lange, Public Works  
Otto Ringle, Circle of Time  
Joe Arndt, Portage Brewing  
Shannon Pfeiffer, FOP

**CONSENT AGENDA-Mayor Shaw**

**M/S** Wilkening/Haefele to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 17 as follows, waving the reading.

1. Approve Walker City Council regular and public hearing minutes of August 1, 2016.
2. Review and file draft of Walker Park Advisory Board minutes of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.
3. Review and file Friends of the Park Meeting minutes of August 2016.
4. Review and file Walker Area Joint Fire Department minutes of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
5. Review and file draft Walker Planning Commissions/Board of Adjustments regular and public hearing meeting minutes of August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
6. Review and file July Zoning Administrator report.
7. No Library Board Meeting due to lack of quorum.
8. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
9. Review and file Public Works Committee minutes of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.
10. Approve Cash Balance Report as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.
11. Review and file 2017 PERA rate increase aid notice letter from the Minnesota Revenue Department.
12. Approve contract with Gas Service Co. for propane for the 2016-2017 heating season at a price of \$1.09 per gallon.
13. Review and file Thank You for sponsorship of Walker Bay Days
14. Approve to send Charolotte Hines to the 2016 MDRA annual meeting in St. Cloud on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at a cost of \$30.00 plus mileage and wages.
15. Review and file invoice 238534 in the amount of \$1,117 for membership dues in the League of Minnesota Cities for the 2016-2017.
16. Review and file Kitchigami Regional Library Systems Cass County portion of proposed 2017 budget in the amount of \$364,905.

17. Review and file state-certified level of library support for 2017 in the amount of \$16,981.
18. To add number 16 under Personnel, Budget and Administration for consideration to approval of the Agreement between Cass County and the City of Walker regarding improvements on the Shingobee trail connection.  
Motion passed (4-0)

#### **SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS –Mayor Shaw**

- Otto Ringle, Art-in-the-Garden  
Otto and several members from the community spoke of the benefits of the Art-in-the-Garden event and encouraged Council to approve the installation of a pavilion at the Walker Rock Garden.

**M/S Shaw/ Haefele** to allow for the Circle of Time/Art-in-the-Garden to work towards the installation of a pavilion in the Rock Garden.  
Wilkening urges Council members to put more careful thought into this before making a decision. The Board discusses who would take the responsibility of the upkeep and designing a policy for the pavilion for use or rental of it. They agree that this would be best moved to the Park Advisory Board.  
Motion dies due to lack of vote (0-0)

**M/S Shaw/Haefele** approve to have the Park Advisory Board work with the Circle-of-Time/Art-in-the-Garden members regarding the pavilion in the Rock Garden request.  
Motion passed (4-0)

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

None.

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

1. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve of Claim #52766 to Claim #52878 including Voided Check Numbers 52785 and 52786 and bank drafts in the amount of \$796,293.02.  
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve to pay Invoice No. 59381 from Ulteig in the amount of \$80,971.70 for professional services through July 31, 2016 for the 2016 Southside Street and Utility Improvements.  
Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve to pay R.L. Larson Excavating, Inc. \$1,283,343.91 for partial payment No. 4 for project No. R15.00604 dated September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 for the 2016 Southside Area and 5<sup>th</sup> Street North Utility and Street Improvements.  
Motion passed (4-0)
4. **M/S Senenfelder/Haefele** to approve of the Kitchigami Regional Library System proposed 2017 Budget for Walker Library Branch levy portion in the amount of \$14,711 plus \$406.00 for Automation Repair and Replacement.  
Motion passed (4-0)

5. Overview and discussion on the proposed 2017 preliminary budget.  
Wilkening noted that it is a \$157 more than last year and if you consider the gain that we will have next year with the other properties coming off of TIF next years may be a little less. Terri's staff did a great job.
6. **M/S** Senenfelder/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 36-2016, a resolution adopting preliminary budget and tax levy, and certifying the truth-in-taxation meetings.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Haefele, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (4-0)
7. **M/S** Senenfelder/Wilkening to approve of the recommendation of Budget and Finance committee to approve the allocation and distribution of donations and expenditures laid out in the Exhibit B per the Liquor Store Profit Policy for fiscal year 2015.  
Wilkening explained that this is a formula that was designed five or six years ago and has been working for the City.  
Motion passed (4-0)
8. **M/S** Senenfelder/Wilkening to approve of the estimate in the amount of \$5,040.76 from Garage Door Guys, LLC for the removal and replacement of the City Police Garage doors.  
Chief Tennis explains that the hinges and springs keep braking and that the current garage doors don't have the braking safety features that it should have. Shaw clarifies that this would bring it up to code. Tennis mentions that the price would be increasing next year.  
Motion passed (4-0)
9. **M/S** Senenfelder/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 40-2016, a resolution accepting the offer of the Minnesota public facilities authority to purchase a \$1,913,436 general obligation water revenue note of 2016, providing for its issuance and authorizing execution of a bond purchase and project loan agreement.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Haefele, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (4-0)
10. **M/S** Senenfelder/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 41-2016, a resolution accepting the offer of the Minnesota public facilities authority to purchase a \$3,162,088 general obligation sewer revenue note of 2016, providing for its issuance and authorizing execution of a bond purchase and project loan agreement.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Haefele, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None  
Motion passed (4-0)
11. **M/S** Senenfelder/Haefele to approve to hire Heather Broughten as a part time fill in Police Officer with no guaranteed hours at a rate of \$15.00per hour with a.25¢ per hour increase upon successful completion of the 6 month probation period.  
Motion passed (4-0)
12. **M/S** Senenfelder/Haefele to approve to hire John Sorenson as a part time fill in Police Officer with no guaranteed hours at a rate of \$15.00per hour with a.25¢ per hour increase upon successful completion of the 6 month probation period.  
Motion passed (4-0)

13. **M/S Senenfelder/Haeefe** to approve to hire JoDawn Ivey as a Liquor Store Clerk, 32 hours per week (full time) at a rate of \$12.00 per hour with a.25¢ per hour increase upon successful completion of the 6 month probation period.  
Motion passed (4-0)
14. **M/S Senenfelder/Haeefe** to approve of the Personnel Committee recommendation to increase The rate of pay \$1.00 per hour for the current Liquor Store Clerks  
Motion passed (4-0)
15. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve to budget \$500.00 for the Initiative Foundation in 2017  
Motion passed (4-0)
16. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve to enter into an Agreement between Cass County and the City of Walker regarding improvements on the Shingobee connection trail.  
Motion passed (4-0)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/LIQUOR STORE & AIRPORT –Mayor Shaw**

1. **M/S Shaw/Wilkening** to approve of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Regular minutes of July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.  
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S Shaw/Senenfelder** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve Ordinance 2016-05, an Ordinance adding regulations to Chapter 155 Entitled Wireless Telecommunication Antennas and Towers by adding §155.001 Definitions, §155.15 Monopole and amending §155.09 Application Process and §155.10 Tower and Antenna Special Requirements.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Haeefe, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening                      Nays: None  
Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S Shaw/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 37-2016, a resolution authorizing a summary publication of Ordinance 2016-05.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Haeefe, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening                      Nays: None  
Motion passed (4-0)
4. **M/S Shaw/Senenfelder** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve Ordinance 2016-09, an Ordinance amending Title XV: Land Use, Chapter 154: Zoning and Subdivision, Performance Standards, §154.042 Signs.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Haeefe, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening                      Nays: None  
Motion passed (4-0)
5. **M/S Shaw/Senenfelder** to approve of Resolution 38-2016, a resolution authorizing a summary publication of Ordinance 2016-09.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Haeefe, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening                      Nays: None  
Motion passed (4-0)
6. **M/S Shaw/Wilkening** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve Ordinance 2016-10, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 154 Entitled “Zoning and Subdivision, Special Provisions” by adding Solar Energy Sources and Systems an Amendments to the Walker Municipal Code regarding Renewable Energy Systems (Solar)  
Roll Call: Ayes: Haeefe, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening                      Nays: None  
Motion passed (4-0)

7. **M/S Shaw/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 39-2016, a resolution authorizing a summary publication of Ordinance 2016-10.

Roll Call: Ayes: Haeefe, Senenfelder, Shaw, Wilkening      Nays: None

Motion passed (4-0)

8. **M/S Shaw/Wilkening** to approve of the recommendation of the Walker Planning Commission for adoption of the updated City of Walker Comprehensive Plan. Senenfelder brings up the following questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Page 25, number 9: *Identify city-owned, platted lots currently used for public parking or other uses. Develop a strategy for converting each to commercial or other uses when it would help achieve the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.***

Why would we be looking at converting a public parking lot when we don't have enough of them as it is?

- **Page 27(28), CHALLENGES number 1: *The lakeside park is not easily accessible by pedestrians or even by car. This limits the spontaneous value of the park as a public gathering space and requires much of the limited area to be dedicated to parking.***

Senenfelder-It doesn't make a lot of sense because we have a pathway or trail system that runs to it; it's on the highway, you can't get any more accessible than that.

- **Page 30, number 2: *Construct a new public library at the City's lakeside park so as to help promote the park as a gathering space and improve pedestrian-oriented connections between public spaces and the commercial areas on the eastern edge of downtown.***

Wilkening noted that this could change 6 more times.

- **Page 31, numbers 8, 9 and 10: *8.Continue to work cooperatively with Cass County officials to implement strategies for recapturing and enhancing the Cass County Courthouse Plaza for public use. 9. Look for ways to establish a public boat-mooring facility for the residents of Walker. If demand is greater than supply, provide seasonal access by a lottery system. 10. Maintain the city dock areas as pedestrian space, rather than for parking, so that the site can be dedicated to those arriving to Walker by boat and those seeking to access the docks from the City.***

Senenfelder-There are number of times in this where they site the court house plaza, it is the court house front lawn and we really don't have any control what Cass County decides to do.

Wilkening stated that what that statement is really saying that it encourages the City to work with the County to utilize that space for public use more so than it is. What that more than likely means is more picnic tables and that type of a thing.

Senenfelder questioned if there had ever been talk of a boat mooring facility?

Wilkening states that yes there has been talk, in-fact the area where we put the old docks that used to go down to the City dock was an area where it's been thought of.

Senenfelder-City dock areas as pedestrian space?

Wilkening clarified that it had been talked about closing 5<sup>th</sup> street down. He reminds Jim that this is from public input as well and this is more of a guide, some of the goals happen and some don't.

- **Page 36, ROADS AND STREETS, the first sentence: *The first goal listed in the 1997 Comprehensive Plan deals with transportation. It states "The City of***

*Walker should provide for the efficient movement of traffic throughout the community and for adequate parking facilities within the downtown area” The implementation of this goal fundamentally undermines the City’s ability to maintain its infrastructure systems. The “efficient movement of traffic” is a concept applied by engineers to highways.*

Senenfelder-in other words they are against that movement and I think we need to look at that. Other than the highway itself, we have no way to move traffic through this city. I don’t agree with this statement.

Wilkening noted that that statement is a leftover from ’97 when the engineer helped to design the comprehensive plan. An engineer’s thinking is to build wider roads and a city planning thinking is to build complex streets so it slows down traffic. He was referencing the ’97 engineers point.

- **Page 43 (46), number 4: *Establish a task force to work with Shingobee and Turtle Lake townships on sharing funding of important services that will benefit the area.***

Senenfelder-Why have we not included Leech Lake Township into that? They are involved in the joint fire department, they are involved in joint township meetings, and they probably should be listed in this comprehensive plan.

Wilkening- I will be voting aye simply because it is a document that always changes and just because there are a few nuances in the comprehensive plan, I don’t vote to spend more money to change it today.

Motion failed (1-3)

**M/S** Senenfelder/Haeefe to send back to the updated City of Walker Comprehensive Plan back to the planning commission to look into possibly amending or revising some of the items in the previous discussion.

Wilkening clarified that he is voting nay simply because it will cost more money and take more time.

Motion passed (3-1)

**M/S** Senenfelder/Haeefe to approve Portage Brewing Company to operate a brewery at 107 5<sup>th</sup> Street South.

Motion passed (4-0)

#### **LIBRARY, PARKS– Councilmember Haeefe**

1. **M/S** Haeefe/Senenfelder to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board meeting minutes of July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.  
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S** Haeefe/Senenfelder to approve the recommendation of the Park Board to approve the application from Walker Area Community Center to use the lower pavilion and grass area for Chase the Police Triathlon, set-up on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and event on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 6:30 a.m.–3:00p.m. The beach will remain accessible. Contingent upon the City receiving Certificate of Liability Insurance and Fee’s if applicable in 2017.

The Board discusses the possible fees for park use and if the applications are turned in prior to the fees approved for 2017 how they would regulate that. Wilkening suggested not accepted any applications for 2017 until 2017.

Motion failed (2-2)

**M/S** Senenfelder/Haeefele to approve to bring application back to the WACC and advise them about the possibility of fees that could be applied in 2017.

Motion passed (4-0)

**M/S** Wilkening/Shaw to approve to not accept applications for the park use until 2017 fees are established.

Haeefele and Senenfelder state they are working on this.

Motion failed (2-2)

**M/S** Senenfelder/Haeefele to approve to make note of any application to make note from this date and the end of 2016 that any applicant be advised that there is a possibility that fees could be applied in 2017 for the use of the park.

Motion passed (4-0)

3. **M/S** Haeefele/Senenfelder to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board to purchase mulch from Minnesota Wisconsin Playground in the amount of \$12,261.20 once the City receives the funds from Friends of the Park.

Motion passed (4-0)

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

1. **M/S** Wilkening/Shaw to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to send all Public Works staff members to safety training in Backus on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at a cost of \$50 per attendee.  
Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S** Wilkening/Senenfelder to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to accept the quote from Nortrax in the amount of \$1,275 plus shipping for the repair of the John Deere Backhoe.  
Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S** Wilkening/Shaw to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee for Neil Lange to attend the annual MN Warn Meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in St. Cloud. (There is no fee to attend this meeting.)  
Motion passed (4-0)
4. **M/S** Wilkening/Senenfelder to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee for Jon Fank to attend the MRWA wastewater training in St. Cloud on October 18-20 at a cost of \$255 plus travel, lodging and meals.  
Motion passed (4-0)
5. **M/S** Wilkening/Senenfelder to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to accept the quote from Macqueen Equipment for repairs on the Pelican Sweeper in the amount of \$9,994.34.  
Motion passed (4-0)

**OTHER BUSINESS –Mayor Jed Shaw**

- The Evergreen Cemetery will be conducting clean-up of the cemetery grounds after **September 15, 2016**. Cemetery personnel will be removing all items from graves, including fresh and artificial flowers.

The meeting was closed at 7:10 p.m. for Attorney/ Client litigation discussion regarding land purchase offer strategy.

The closed session of the meeting was reopened at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT-Mayor Jed Shaw**

Mayor Shaw adjourned the regularly scheduled Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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

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