

**WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
Monday October 6, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER – Acting Mayor Finney

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

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator
Wayne Tennis, Police Chief
Will Hoyt, Landecker & Assoc.
Robert Mallory, Shingobee Twp.
Scott Bruns, Fire Chief
Mitch Loomis

Sylvia Bakker, City Employee
John Valen, City Attorney
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent
Shirley Mallory, Shingobee Twp.
Cindy Wanaraka, Leech Lake Chamber
Willard Arends

CONSENT AGENDA – Acting Mayor Finney

M/S Wilkening, Worth to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 thru 16 as follows:

1. Approve Walker City Council Public Hearing Minutes September 8, 2008.
2. Approve Walker City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2008.
3. Approve Claim #40411 thru #40462, Claim #40464 thru Claim #40477, Claim #40479 thru Claim #40505. Claim #40508 thru Claim #40565 in the amount of \$1,275,208.29.
4. Approve Cash Balance Report for the month ending August 31, 2008.
5. Review and file Walker Police Departments Monthly Report.
6. Review and file Walker Ambulance Departments September 2008 month end report.
7. Review and file the Minnesota Deputy Registrars 2009 Legislative Agenda.
8. Review and file Cass County Economic Development Corporation August 2008 Activity Report.
9. Review and file correspondence to City Administrator from James Marks, Acting Director, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Office.
10. Approve payment of Invoice #207696 in the amount of \$9,825.00 to SEH for work completed on the Parallel Taxiway, Preliminary Design, Wetland Delineation, and Wetland Permit Application.
11. Approve Landecker & Associates recommendation to pay Partial Payment Voucher # 1 in the amount of \$47,682.24 to Anderson Brothers for work completed on the Municipal Parking Project #082012.
12. Approve payment of Invoice #8429 in the amount of \$20,603.00 to Landecker & Associates for work completed on the Municipal Parking Lot Project.

13. Approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$830.88 for the Hazardous Waste Inspection on the Municipal Parking Lot Project.
14. Review and file correspondence from Ferrellgas, dated September 22, 2008.
15. Addition of #6 under Personnel, Budget & Administration, resolution 34-2008, a resolution supporting the Leech lake Area Youth Hockey to conduct raffles at an unlicensed place.
16. Addition of #7, under Economic Development, review and file monthly zoning report.

Motion passed: 4-0

SCHEDULED CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS – Acting Mayor Finney

- Will Hoyt – Business Overview for Jan Johnson, who will be running a counseling and rehabilitation service for alcohol and drug addicts, called “Outward Bound” in the Landecker Office Complex.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS/CONCERNS – Administrator Terri Bjorklund

- City Hall Parking Lot Project scheduled to start October 7, 2008.
- Kitchigamie Regional Library Joint Powers Agreement Update

PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember /Fjelstul

1. **M/S** Fjelstul, Worth to approve the appointment of Edy Asell as the City’s Safety Coordinator.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve Edy Asell’s attendance at the OSHA/Safety Assistance 101 training program at a cost of \$112.20.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve the transfer of \$330,000.00 from the Ambulance Account to Senior Leech Lakers, Inc. Project Account, until the City is reimbursed by Grant Funds.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve Resolution 32-2008, a resolution for execution of agreement for the Walker police Department to participate in the Safe & Sober Communities Grant.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Wilkening, Worth, Finney Nyes: None Absent: Walhof

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to approve Resolution 33-2008, a resolution requesting the US Army Corps of Engineers to keep the start date for winter draw down of Leech Lake September 1st.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Wilkening, Worth, Finney Nyes: None Absent: Walhof

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S** Fjelstul, Worth to approve Resolution 34-2008, a resolution supporting the Leech Lake Area Youth Hockey to conduct raffles at an unlicensed location, The Walker Area Community Center.

Roll Call: Ayes: Fjelstul, Wilkening, Worth, Finney Nyes: None Absent: Walhof

Motion passed: 4-0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/LIQUOR STORE – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to review and file Walker Planning Commissions Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2008.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Wilkening, Fjelstul to approve Walker Planning Commissions recommendation to rezone parcel #96-354-0260, 211 6th Street S. from Traditional Residential to Transitional Commercial.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to move forward with Legal Action through City Attorney Valen, on the structure located at the Dennis Funeral Home, which does not comply with the City's Zoning Ordinances.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** Wilkening, Fjelstul to move the issue for right-of-way permits to Planning and Zoning for consideration and potential adoption of Landscape addition or amendment to Chapter 97 of our City Ordinance.

Council member Fjelstul stated that he wanted to make a further comment. He stated "I really support the fact that if anything is committed by the Planning and Zoning regulation amendment that we take, that the amendment should include that if any work that needs to be done on that piece of Boulevard, that is legally City Property, that the City has the right to do that, but there would be no liability on the part of the City for any damage that's done to whatever the property owner has done there.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. Discussed the re-establishment of turf on the property donated to the Leech Lake Senior's.

M/S Wilkening, Fjelstul to get bids to re-establish Turf on the Senior Leech Lakers Property the City donated to the Seniors.

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S** Wilkening, Worth to approve quote in the amount of \$4,664.87 from BITS to upgrade the computer system at Walker Bay Spirits.

Motion passed: 4-0

7. Reviewed and filed Zoning Monthly Report.

PARKS & RECREATION/LIBRARY – Councilmember Worth

1. **M/S** Worth, Fjelstul to review and file Walker Park Board Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2008.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Worth, Wilkening to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to allow the Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce to host a Circus in the Park on July 22, 2009.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Worth, Wilkening to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to allow the Leech Lake Walleye Committee to use the Park May 28th thru June 1st for a Walleye Tournament.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** Worth, Finney to approve Walker Park Board's recommendation to move the rocks further out for safety, and make an Exit sign only to create a one-way out of the Park onto Second Street.

Council member Fjelstul stated he had a comment to make, but was waiting for somebody to second the motion first. Council member Finney then seconded the motion. Scott Bruns, asked is he could make a comment about this issue. He stated, "There is only one person who has been pushing this thing, and I think I know who it is. We got money from the DNR to do the Plan that the Park did three quarters of. If you ask, say the Police Chief of that street being cut off for safety reasons and that exit not being there, has helped tons. Having one exit in and out of the Park, has made a big difference. I have been on the Park Board a long time, and having the street going straight out there was a big safety problem, cause all the kids use that way in and out of the park, and having a street go by there it is not safe. I remember the insurance and people complaining about cars going by there, and I think your just going back to the way it was, and it would be a huge mistake.

Acting Mayor Finney asked Police Chief Wayne Tennis what his views were on it? Police Chief Wayne Tennis, stated that if you do open it up, then he was going to request of the Council, instead of coming to the Council each month or a month prior that you allow him and the City Administrator at there discretion to be allowed to close it for special events. For example, like 4th of July, the fireworks, could we close that down to be able to get people out one-way. Acting Mayor Finney asked if without a special event going on would you have a problem with safety if it were opened up. Chief Tennis answered in all honesty that's hard to answer. If we have an accident then I'll come and tell you. In one way I don't see the advantage to it. All I know is that when we have something going on in that park, it's easier for us to contain traffic coming out onto 371. If we have cars trying to get out there, like on the 4th of July, Festival of Lights, and so on we don't have enough Officers to go up to Second Street to control traffic there and to control it at the park and all the way through town. So if that helps.

Council member Fjelstul stated that his comment was, because of some of the other planning that has taken place, relative to the bicycle and snowmobile trail coming through the new parking lot that we're putting in, I think the timing is such that any further discussion on this could just be put aside for awhile, and Will you can speak for the bike and snowmobile trail, but the object of that is to have that continue on, as we get a design, directly down to the park, so that we have a good way of bringing that bicycle trail through to the park, and perhaps at some point in time possibly even connecting with some discussions that are taking place with the Forest Service to have a visitors center across 371, either across or by an underpass under 371 or such, so I think the timing is such that rather then make a decision to make any change now, if we would wait a little while we would probably have a plan that would show what we want to recommend to the City and the way the trail through there, which may or may not give us some insight as to whether it would be good to have that opened up, or whatever the case might be. We are going to be recommending to Public Works I think in the near future I think for some

engineering work to advance that trail from 5th street, out of that new parking lot that we are making down to the park, so that we have an established corridor for bicycles and snowmobiles, where snow can be kept on it during the winter time, where people can enter the City, and have a way of traveling around in that part of the City, because bicycling and snowmobiling in the future can be a big part of the economy and I think once we get all those things worked out, it will make it possible for the Chamber to be more promoting of those activities in our community. So I would say that if we can hold back a little bit for further discussion on this it might be a good thing to do. More discussion ensued on how to extend the trail from Fifth Street to the park, and the paving of the upper area of the park used for parking.

Motion failed: 4-0

5. **M/S** Fjelstul, Wilkening to table Walker Park Board's recommendation to move the rocks further out for safety, and make an Exit sign only to create a one-way out of the Park onto Second Street, in favor of a plan put together by the Public Works Department for review.

Motion passed: 4-0

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY/ CEMETERY– Councilmember Finney

1. **M/S** Finney, Wilkening to approve the Walker Municipal Utilities Identity Theft Prevention Program.

Motion passed: 4-0

2. **M/S** Finney, Fjelstul to approve Walker Fire Departments request to donate the Fire Departments Old Compressor to the Leech Lake Area Dive Team, as is, with the City Assuming No Liability.

Motion passed: 4-0

3. **M/S** Finney, Fjelstul to review and file Walker Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2008.

Motion passed: 4-0

4. **M/S** Finney, Worth to review and file NMAS Walker, and Walker City EMS Advisory Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2008.

Motion passed: 4-0

5. **M/S** Finney, Fjelstul to approve Kimley-Horn & Associates plans and specifications for bidding, the Sanitary Sewer and Water main, and the elevated Storage Tank. Bid opening October 14th. Cass County Review October 21st. City Council review Nov. 3rd, and award deadline Dec. 14th, 2008.

Motion passed: 4-0

6. **M/S** Finney, Wilkening to approve the Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement with Cass County for on site disposal of non-hazardous demolition materials.

Motion passed: 4-0

7. **M/S** Finney, Wilkening to approve the conditions set forth with Tianna Country Club and Joanne Gitchell for water line easements to Ah-Gwah-Ching Property.

Motion passed: 4-0

OTHER BUSINESS – Acting Mayor Finney

ADJOURNMENT – Acting Mayor Finney

Acting Mayor Finney adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Pat Finney, Acting Mayor

Attest: _____
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator