

**CITY OF WALKER
TNT PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
Monday December 3, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Walhof

- Mayor Walhof called the TNT Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Council members present: Finney, Fjelstul, Wilkening, Worth, Walhof
- Council members absent: None
- Others present during portions of the meeting included:

Terri Bjorklund, Administrator
Wayne Tennis, Police Chief
Travis Baker, Police Officer
Mathew Pellinen, Landecker & Assoc.
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent
John Valen, City Attorney
Tony Sauer
Shirley Mallory, Shingobee Twp.
Brad Fagerman, Shingobee Twp.

Sylvia Bakker, City Employee
Joanne Mitchell, City Employee
Will Hoyt, Landecker & Assoc.
Willard Arends, Resident
Aaron Meyers
Brian Hein, Resident
Bob Mallory, Shingobee Twp.
Ron Geiser, Shingobee Twp.

Mayor Walhof stated that the Walker City Council would receive comments and concerns pertaining to the proposed Tax Levy. He then turned the meeting over to Council member Fjelstul, who is the Chairmen of the Budget & Finance Committee. Council member Fjelstul stated that you all have the information in front of you in recap form, showing the 6 specific funds that we generally break things out to in the accounting of putting together our Budget for the year. The Budget as you can imagine is significantly more involved than that, and I want first of all want to Thank Terri and Joanne for all the work they did on this. An awfully lot of time goes into this as well as Department Heads contributing information in terms of what their requests are, and having follow up meetings, as we can't always meet their requests, and kind of spending down, something that will fit within the Budget. You will notice that the budget request this year is for a 12% increase in the Levy, and that will raise the actual total amount of the Levy from \$815,949.00 to \$913,883.00. That is the amount that we proposed when we held our first Budget presentation to you, and we still feel we need to hold firm on this.

As you are aware, one of the problems we have in the City of Walker is our Tax Base is relatively limited, and yet we have major expenses on streets, water and sewer and that type of thing, so it's important to us to try and keep the Budget as close in check as we can, but it's almost impossible to tighten it down completely because there is always something going wrong with water and sewer, and we can hardly get by a month without something breaking down on us, so we have to estimate it as close as we can, what we think we can live with.

You also have to understand that with a budget for City Government, there is very little Revenue that comes in, other than the General Tax Levy. We only have four sources of

money or funding from what is called enterprise funds, and they are subject to very little income coming in, in our instance. The water department, sewer department, and currently the water department is running in a deficient right now. We don't always know what the Liquor Store will do, but have proposed a figure from prior years, and the Department of Motor Vehicle generates a certain amount of income to us, but that actually is decreasing in terms of income to us, because of the way that the Department of Motor Vehicle business is handled now. Not as much of it is handled directly by the City now, a lot of it is handled on-line by people who go directly to the Department of Motor Vehicle Web Site.

Then of course every year we have to take into consideration what we have going to propose for salary adjustments and so forth and we will be bringing some of that detail to you the second meeting of this month that we will be having as we are still working on getting some of that stuff together.

So again what we are recommending is that you go along with our proposal to you of the 12% increase in the General Fund Levy, and that will result in us having to draw down a little bit on our reserve fund, about a \$155,688.00, draw down on that, and that should leave us if everything works out reasonably well with a 80,750.00 reserve fund at the end of the year. Budgets are not an exact science, they are adjusted as you go through the year as circumstances demand, but we have to look at them as being an absolute cap on which we can not go over, unless we use reserve funds to go over. That's generally what I have to report to you, if you have any questions I'll try and answer them.

Mayor Walhof asked if there were any questions from the council. Upon there being no questions Mayor Walhof opened it up to the public for questions.

Two property owners raised questions about their taxes. The City referred them to the County Assessor, about their evaluations and informed them that the staff would check with the County and get back to them with answers to their question.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Walhof

Mayor Walhof adjourned the TNT Hearing at 6:58 p.m.

Bradley J. Walhof, Mayor

Attest: _____
Terri Bjorklund, Administrator