WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021

NOTE: Councilmember Senenfelder will be participating in the meeting virtually. His location is: Walnut Street in the City of Pharr, Texas.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor McMurrin
Mayor Annie McMurrin called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Councilmembers present: Mary Beth Hansen, Annie McMurrin, Jim Senenfelder (via Zoom), and Gary Wilkening
- Councilmembers absent: Char Moore
- Others present during portions of the meeting include:

Hope Fairchild, City Administrator
Wayne Tennis, Chief of Police
Mike Ridlon, Public Works Director
Jon Stewart, Airport
Linda Nye, Library Board
Peggy Trimble, Library Board
Joe Sherman, Library Board
Dave Capinski, Self
Jennie Meyer, City Staff
Travis Baker, Police Officer
John Valen, City Attorney
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent
Fred Rogers, Library Board
Theresa Bilben, Library Board
Jed Shaw, D.B. of Walker

CONSENT AGENDA – Mayor McMurrin
M/S Wilkening/Hansen to approve consent agenda items 1 through 17 as follows, waving the reading.

1. Approve Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of January 4th, 2021.
2. No Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting was held in January due to lack of business.
3. Review and file January 2021 Zoning Administrator report.
4. Review and file draft of Walker Park Advisory Board minutes of January 26th, 2021.
5. Review and file draft of Walker Public Library Board minutes of January 20th, 2021.
6. Review and file Public Works Committee meeting minutes of January 19th, 2021.
7. Review and file Walker Area Joint Fire Department Minutes of January 14th, 2021.
8. Approve Cash Balance Report as of December 31st, 2020.
9. Review and file Sales Tax Receipts.
10. Review and file Cass County's January Tax Settlement.
11. Review and file Walker City Special Assessments from Period 3, 2020.
12. Review and file the Volunteer Fire Relief Association Investment Report Card from the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor.
13. Review and file Paul Bunyan Regional Safety Group Agenda of January 26th, 2021.
14. Review and file Cass County Emergency Management Quarterly Meeting Minutes of January 26th, 2021.

15. Approve of the loan repayments due on G.O. bonds payable to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority in the amount of $20,701.95 plus paid off special assessments.
16. Approve the payment of invoice no. 727799019486 in the amount of $61,455.00 to Minnesota Power for the relocation of existing overhead powerlines to underground at Railroad Avenue during the 2020 Northside Project.
17. Approve of invoice no. 102017 in the amount of $20,038.64 to Ulteig for engineering services and reimbursable expenses related to work performed during the Northside Project through December 26th, 2020.

    Roll Call: Ayes: Wilkening, Hansen, Senenfelder, McMurrin **Nays:**
    Motion passed (4-0)

PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor McMurrin

- Public hearing to consider revisions to the Walker City Code pertaining to the Fee Schedule. No comments were heard.

SCHEDULED CITIZENS PRESENTATION – Mayor McMurrin

None.

SCHEDULED BOARD/COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – Mayor McMurrin

1. Library Board – discussion on new library building and location.
   The Library Board requested that the City investigates the old Lucky Moose building and property for the new Walker Public Library. The Board also informed the Council of the grants available for the new library.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS – Administrator Hope Fairchild

1. Chief of Police Wayne Tennis – thank-you to Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters for generous donation to Walker Police Department.

PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember Senenfelder

1. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of claim #58930 to claim #59025 including voided check numbers 58938 and 58939, and bank drafts in the amount of $403,554.82. through 1/31/2021.

   Roll Call: Ayes: Wilkening, Hansen, Senenfelder, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of Ordinance 2021-01, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2019-01, adopted 2-04-2019 and titled "2019 Fee Schedule" amended to "2021 Fee Schedule."

   Roll Call: Ayes: Wilkening, Hansen, Senenfelder, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 10-2021, a Resolution Accepting Donations made to the City of Walker Through Fiscal Year 2021.

   Roll Call: Ayes: Wilkening, Hansen, Senenfelder, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)

4. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 11-2021, a Resolution of Support for Tower Avenue Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Grant Application.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Wilkening, Hansen, Senenfelder, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
5. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 12-2021, a Resolution in Support of Shingobee Township's Pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Funding.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
6. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of the payment of the Hillsdale Stormwater Project per 2020 Joint Agreement to Shingobee Township in the amount of $5,187.50.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
7. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve to pay invoice no. 025-320945 to Tyler Technologies in the amount of $9,223.00 for INCODE software annual fees.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
8. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of the payment of invoice no. 43 from the Walker Area Joint Fire Department in the amount of $29,467.16 for the City's portion of the Walker Fire Contract.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
9. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve to pay an invoice from the League of Minnesota Cities in the amount of $25,174.00 for Worker's Compensation Coverage Premium.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
10. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of the Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo at the Walker American Legion on the dates of March 27th, 2021 and November 20th, 2021.
    Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
    Motion passed (4-0)
11. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of third-party administrator drug testing services from Mid Minnesota Drug Testing Inc. in the amount of $100.00 per year for administrative services, lab test fees of $30.00, and collection fees paid to the clinic.
    Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
    Motion passed (4-0)
12. **M/S** Senenfelder/Hansen to approve to send requests for use of the Fire Hall by private parties to the Joint Area Fire Department Board.
    Councilmember Senenfelder stated that the City currently has a lease with the Fire Department for the Fire Hall, and therefore the Council cannot necessarily okay that usage, but the Joint Area Fire Department Board could.
    Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
    Motion passed (4-0)
13. Discussion on adding paper copies of Council Meeting Minutes back into water bills. Mayor McMurrin suggested this in response to the recent "letters to the editor" where people were feeling that they were not informed.

Councilmember Hansen stated the meetings are public.
Administrator Fairchild also pointed out the amount of staff time it would take.
Councilmember Hansen voiced that the minutes are sometimes 3 pages long, therefore postage would go up.
Councilmember Senenfelder stated Dean Morrill with the Pilot Independent posts them in the paper as well, and they are also on the website, and city staff would be able to print a copy for anyone who came into city hall asking for one.
Councilmember Senenfelder also stated the website should be on the water bills with directions as to how to get to the minutes.
Councilmember Wilkening suggested that the minutes should be uploaded to the homepage so they are easier to find.
Administrator Fairchild stated that she will be working to re-configure the website to make it easier to navigate.

14. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of Mayor McMurrin's Council Committee Appointments as amended.
    Mayor McMurrin agreed to leave Councilmember Hansen on Library Board, as she will be attending the KRLS meetings via Zoom.
    Mayor McMurrin stated that she still stands by her reasoning for wanting to be the Police Commissioner; she wants to learn more about it.
    Administrator Fairchild stated that she was informed that Councilmember Wilkening agreed to fill in on the Planning Commission.
    Councilmember Wilkening agreed and stated that the Council should all work together at this time to cover Councilmember Moore's appointments for as long as she needs.
    Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
    Motion passed (4-0)
15. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of the successful completion of Joanne Bloch's six-month probationary period and adding a 3% increase to her hourly wage, effective February 18th, 2021.
    Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
    Motion passed (4-0)
16. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of sending Officer Erickson to Defensive Tactics instructor training through the St. Cloud Police Department from May 17th to May 21st in the amount of $795.00, plus lodging, meals, and mileage.
    Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
    Motion passed (4-0)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LIQUOR STORE, AIRPORT & LIBRARY – Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of John J. Cossette's Airport Vendor Application.
   Jon Stewart, representing the Walker Municipal Airport, stated that he contacted Rick with MN Department of Aeronautics in the Airport Safety and Commercial Operations area. Rick called John Cossette, applicant, to find out exactly what his intentions are at the Airport. Per Rick, all that John is looking for is a dealer's license. According to Rick, it is not uncommon. Mr. Stewart stated that Rick informed him that Jack needs an agreement approving the operation at the airport from the City, and that the State has templates for cities to use in these situations. Mr. Stewart suggested that he sit down with Administrator Fairchild and

City Attorney John Valen and put together the agreement for Council to approve to use for future operations at the airport.
According to Mr. Stewart, Rick stated that what the applicant is looking to do is not unusual and is nice that he is asking permission from the City. Mr. Stewart inquired with Rick if the City needed to be additionally insured and, Rick stated that in this case, no.
Councilmember Wilkening questioned if he would technically be labeled as a transient merchant if he has a hangar.
Mayor McMurrin questioned if he will be selling things out of the airport.
Mr. Stewart stated that Mr. Cossette is looking for approval to keep his fixed airplanes that are ready to be sold in his hangar and that he is now wanting approval from the City to obtain his dealer's license.
Councilmember Wilkening stated that if the City begins issuing transient vendor licenses, that could open up an avenue for a variety of transient merchants coming to town.
Councilmember Wilkening also questioned if the City could allow Mr. Cossette to do this sale out of his hangar without having to issue an actual vendor's permit.
Councilmember Senenfelder stated that this topic should be researched further and that the application appeared incomplete.
Administrator Fairchild informed him it was complete, but personal data was blocked out because it was in a public packet.
Roll Call: Ayes: **Nays:** Wilkening, Hansen, Senenfelder, McMurrin
Motion failed (0-4)

2. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to table John J Cossette's Vendor License Application for the Walker Airport for further discussion, and direct Administrator Fairchild, Jon Stewart, and City Attorney John Valen to work together to research the topic.
   Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S** Hansen/Wilkening to approve of Walker Library Board meeting minutes of December 16th, 2020.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)
4. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to direct Administrator Fairchild to approach Kathy and Jim Lohr with a proposal: the donators would donate their two lots to the City, and the City would sell the lots and dedicate all of the proceeds and a portion of the City's property tax earnings accrued over a period of time towards the new library construction.
   Councilmember Hansen stated that the covenants say it all, as the property is only intended, specifically, for residential use.
   Councilmember Wilkening suggested that the City accepts the donated lots, sells the lots, figures out what the property tax would be City's portion over a 20-year plan and put that in the Library Building fund.
   Councilmember Hansen questioned if there were any stipulations on the donation.
   Dean Morrill responded that there were - for library use.
   Councilmember Wilkening said it would in fact, be for the library, but of course the City would need the permission of the current landowners.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays:**
   Motion passed (4-0)

PARKS & AMBULANCE BOARD – Councilmember Moore

1. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the Walker Park Advisory Board meeting minutes of October 27th, 2020.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Walker Park Advisory Board to approve of the park application for Summer Recreation: requested by Walker Hackensack Akeley Community Education for use of the Upper and Lower Park; Monday through Thursday; June 7-10, June 14-17, July 5-8, and July 12-15 from 9 a.m. until noon. Approximately 50-60 participants.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of recommendation of the Walker Park Advisory Board to approve of the park application for Girl Scout Cookie Drive-Through Sale: requested by the Local Girl Scout troop leader, Kristan Pollock, for use of the park parking lots; Saturday, February 13th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, February 15th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday, February 19th from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., waiving the Commercial/Reduced Commercial fee damage deposit. **Dates and times may change due to sports and availability of girl scouts*.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY/CEMETERY – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to direct Administrator Fairchild to create an advertisement accepting bids on all City owned properties.
   Jed Shaw, D.B. of Walker is requesting that the City of Walker potentially make available for sale some of the properties they have. Mr. Shaw is interested in purchasing the 144-acre tract along Sautbine Road that was recently annexed, the potential "library lots", and other City lots that may be available. Mr. Shaw informed council the land would be used primarily as single-family development.
   Councilmember Wilkening stated that the City would have to advertise it to the public, create a request for bids, figure out the times, and a minimum bid.
   Councilmember Senenfelder stated that he is not opposed to selling any excess land that the City has been sitting on for quite a while, as long as we go through the bidding process.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin **Nays**:
   Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the Vac Trailer/Valve Exerciser Agreement.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to purchase the 2020 John Deere Backhoe 310 SL in the amount of $100,897.47, minus the trade-in value of $12,000.00 for the City's current backhoe.

Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
Motion passed (4-0)

4. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to install a flow meter in the Ah-Gwah-Ching sewer lift in the amount of $5,250.00 to First Systems Technologies.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
5. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve of annual cleaning of the sewer lift stations in the amount of $2,000.00 to Johnson Jetline.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
6. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to replace the finished water plant meter in the amount of $12,250.00 to First Systems Technology.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
7. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to purchase 20 water meter registers and 1 replacement meter in the amount of $3,290.00 from Fergusson Waterworks.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
8. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to purchase Asset Essentials Enterprise from Dude Solutions in the amount of $5,437.83, 3 iPads from Verizon and accessories from Amazon in the amount of $1,580.94, and data packages for iPads in the amount of $119.97 per month.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
9. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to deny the request from Otto Ringle to add additional lighting to the Circle of Time.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
10. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to not open the trailhead restrooms until spring.
    Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
    Motion passed (4-0)
11. **M/S** Wilkening/Hansen to approve of appointing Lois Orton, Kathleen Ostlund, and Mary Andrus to the Cemetery Board.
    Roll Call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Wilkening, Hansen, McMurrin Nays:
    Motion passed (4-0)

OTHER BUSINESS – Mayor McMurrin

- City Offices and DMV will be closed on Monday February 15th, 2021 in honor of Presidents' Day.
- City Council will now go into an attorney-client privileged closed session to discuss Chase on the Lake's TIF Event of Default.

Regular meeting closed at 6:56 p.m.

Regular meeting opened at 7:20 p.m.

1. **M/S** Wilkening/McMurrin to approve to move forward with decertifying the Chase on the Lake's TIF Agreement.
   Roll Call: Ayes: Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Hansen
   Motion passed (2-1)

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor McMurrin
Mayor Annie McMurrin adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

_____ Attest:_____
Annie McMurrin, Mayor Hope Fairchild, Administrator/Clerk-Trs.