WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
701 ELM AVENUE, WALKER, MINNESOTA
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024

Call to Order – Mayor Worth
Mayor Worth called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Councilmembers present: Mary Beth Hansen, Char Moore, Jim Senenfelder, Gary Wilkening, Jerecho Worth
- Councilmembers absent: none
- Staff members present: Hope Fairchild, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Peter Anderley, Police Chief; Jennie Meyer, Zoning Administrator; Dan Martin, Public Works Director

- Others present during portions of the meeting include:

Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent Newspaper	Matt Upgren, MNDOT
Joe DeVore, KLM Engineering	Bob Moore, Self
Joe Sherman, Shingobee Township	Doug Lenz, Walker Pickleball Club
Brad Running, Walker Pickleball Club	George Enusten, Meals on Wheels
Dave Schwartz, Walker Pickleball Club	Renee Wasmund, Walker Pickleball Club
Kent Kollodge, Walker Pickleball Club	Jerry Bolin, Karvakko Engineering
Kathi Cadmus, Library Volunteer	Joanne Pels, Senior Leech Lakers

Consent Agenda – Mayor Worth
M/S Moore/Senenfelder to approve of consent agenda items 1 through 34 as follows, waiving the reading.

1. Approve of Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of July 1, 2024.
2. July Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting was not held due to lack of business.
3. Approve of Public Works Committee regular meeting minutes of July 16, 2024.
4. Review and file Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of July 23, 2024.
5. Review and file Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of July 9, 2024.
6. Review and file Cemetery Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of July 17, 2024.
7. Review and file Walker Area Joint Fire Department Board regular meeting minutes of July 11, 2024.
8. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
9. Approve of the Cash Balance Report dated June 30, 2024.
10. Review and file sales tax receipts.
11. Approve of claim no. 64421 to claim no. 64576, included voided check numbers 64509, 64510, and 64522, and bank drafts 1180-1189, in the amount of $914,497.29.
12. Approve of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of June 25, 2024.
13. Approve of Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of June 11, 2024.

14. Review and file Minnesota State Payment Advice for the 1st half of Local Government Aid in the amount of $21,504.00 and Small City Assistance in the amount of $22,257.00.
15. Review and file Cass County Property Tax System Statement of Remittance, dated July 3, 2024.
16. Approve of Liquor Store Clerk Kristine Jenkins' successful completion of her six-month probationary period and a 3% wage increase as of July 20, 2024.
17. Approve of the Application and Permit for a 1 to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from Walker Fire Relief Association/Walker Area Joint Fire Department to take place at 701 Elm Avenue West on August 16, 2024 for annual fundraising fish fry.
18. Approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve of Event/Street Closure Permit Application from Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for Ethnic Fest Parade, to take place on Michigan Avenue West on September 14, 2024.
19. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of Walker Lions Club serving food and beverages, including alcoholic beverages, at Walker Bay Live on August 15, 2024.
20. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of Application for a 1 to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from Walker Lions Club for Walker Bay Live at Walker City Park on August 15, 2024.
21. Approve of Resolution 34-2024, a Resolution Accepting Donations made to the City of Walker through fiscal year 2024.
22. Approve of paying invoice no. 14539 in the amount of $57,602.35 to Hy-Tec Construction for professional services and material through July 31, 2024.
23. Approve of paying $369,714.22 to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for amounts due on general obligation bonds.
24. Approve of paying invoice no. INV0042092 in the amount of $2,160.00 to Team Lab for white paint used for crosswalks and parking stripes.
25. Approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve of paying invoice no. 32995 in the amount of $15,402.49 to Martin's Snowplow & Equipment for new lawn mower.
26. Approve of paying invoice no. 14502 in the amount of $305,572.97 to Hy-Tec Construction for professional services and materials through June 30, 2024.
27. Approve of paying invoice no. ARIV1037512 in the amount of $37,850.59 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for Northwest Area Project professional services through June 30, 2024.
28. Approve of paying Application for Payment number 10 in the amount of $353,993.07 to R.L. Larson Excavating, Inc. for Northwest Area Project professional services and materials through July 27, 2024.
29. Approve of paying invoice no. WC-1001708-7 in the amount of $5,064.00 to the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for a premium adjustment based on an audit of wages in the 2023-2024 period.
30. Approve of paying invoice no. BA062724-31 in the amount of $3,054.69 to Emergency Automotive Technologies, Inc. (EATI) for buildout of new police squad car.
31. Approve of paying invoice no. INV-200674 in the amount of $5,886.25 to American Engineering Testing for the Northwest Area Project.
32. Approve of paying invoice no. 24762 in the amount of $3,700.00 to Turf Technology, LLC for June 2024 lawnmowing.

33. Approve of paying invoice no. 7021 in the amount of $41,080.00 to Outdoor Specialties, LLC for Walker Pickleball/Tennis Courts resurfacing project.
34. Approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve of the installation of a mixer in water tower #2 from KLM Engineering in the amount of $15,826.00, plus electrician costs in the amount of $1,885.00.
    Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
    Motion passed (5-0)

Scheduled Presentations – Mayor Worth

1. Presentation from representative of May Creek Senior Center – donation request for meals on wheels.
   Presentation: a donation request was made in the amount of $5,000.00.

2. Presentation from Penny Nichols regarding the possible placement of a charter school in Walker.
   Presentation: requester did not show.

City Staff Comments – Administrator Fairchild

1. There will be two City Council seats and a Mayor seat up for election in November. Walker residents wishing to file will come to City Hall between Tuesday, July 30, 2024 and Tuesday, August 13, 2024 to do so.

Personnel, Budget & Administration – Councilmember Senenfelder

1. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of the Peddler/Solicitor license applicant coordinating with Southwestern Advantage to sell door-to-door educational books, apps, jumpstart programs, and study guides for grades K through 12 throughout the month of August, 2024.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. Discussion on Council priorities to be considered in the 2025 budget.
   Discussion: Councilmembers brought up ideas such as creating a Housing Redevelopment Authority, reimagining City Dock, cleaning water towers, and adding a full-time administrative assistant/receptionist.
3. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of hiring Ben Roehl for the Public Works Employee position, with a starting hourly wage of $23.50, and a 3% increase after a successful six-month probationary period.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** to approve of draft donation request policy.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
5. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** approve of calling for a public hearing for the draft mobile food unit ordinance and updated fee schedule.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

6. Discussion on donation request from May Creek Senior Center for meals on wheels program.
   Discussion: Representatives of May Creek Senior Center were directed to fill out a donation request form at City Hall.
7. **M/S Senenfelder/Worth** to approve of the Solicitor/Peddler License from Clare Torola of Joyful Scoops Food Truck to operate on private property in conjunction with Walker Bay Live for no more than 21 days in one location in 2024.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

Planning and Zoning, Library & Liquor Store – Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of moving forward with quote from Merchants for moving services to transition to the new library building.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of Jerecho Worth's draft library landscaping plan and costs.
   Discussion: Mayor Worth stated that he would donate his time and the City would receive a donation from Zubke's in the form of a reduced cost for materials.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

Parks, Cemetery & Airport – Councilmember Moore

1. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve moving forward with the Walker Pickleball Club shade structure proposal.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. M/S Hanson/Moore to approve of all Walker Pickleball Club's court accessories proposal.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Senenfelder, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

Public Works – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** to approve of Resolution 35-2024, a Resolution Supporting Highway 371/34 Walker Corridor Study Recommended Alternative.
   Discussion: Councilmember Wilkening brought up a concern regarding potential traffic flow issues from a roundabout at the 371/34 intersection being so close to the 6th and 5th Street stoplights. Representatives of MNDOT explained based on their research, there was a higher percentage of improvement in flow during peak recreational time with the roundabout as opposed to just new traffic lights. Councilmember Senenfelder was concerned about single lane traffic in the roundabout and the potential back-up of traffic coming on and off of Highway 34. Representatives of MNDOT explained that in their study, they saw less queuing in the single lane roundabout than traffic lights. Councilmember Wilkening stated he felt that the roundabout near Walker Bay Boulevard will work well. Councilmember Moore stated that she was not in favor of roundabouts. Councilmember Wilkening stated another concern regarding the roundabout at the 371-34 intersection, specifically about the tight corner that Holiday Gas Station sits on. MNDOT explained the design for the roundabout would not worsen the already tight space at all but slightly improve it.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Senenfelder, Worth Nays: Wilkening, Moore

Motion passed (3-2)

Announcements – Mayor Worth

- City offices and the DMV will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024 for the Labor Day holiday.
- Upcoming meeting dates:
  - Library Advisory Board meeting: 8/14/2024 at 5 p.m.
  - Walker Area Joint Fire Department Board meeting: 8/08/2024 at `6 p.m.
  - Public Works Committee meeting: 8/20/2024 at 7 a.m.
  - Park Advisory Board meeting: 8/27/2024 at 5 p.m.
  - Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting: 8/26/2024 at 6 p.m.
  - City Council meeting: 9/03/2024 at 6 p.m.

Adjournment – Mayor Worth

Mayor Worth adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

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Jerecho Worth, Mayor Hope Fairchild, City Administrator/Clerk-Trs.