WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WALKER FIRE HALL MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

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

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Councilmembers present: Mary Beth Hansen, Char Moore, Annie McMurrin, Jim Senenfelder, Gary Wilkening
- Councilmembers absent: None
- Others present during portions of the meeting include:

Hope Fairchild, City Administrator
Travis Baker, Police Officer
Mike Ridlon, Public Works Director
Bob Moore, Self
Dutch Schulz, Post 134 Legion
Bert Woodford, Post 134 Legion
Jenelle K. Mankie, Post 134 Legion
Cindy Wannarka, Chamber of Commerce
Kristin Holly, Walker Bay Live
Jerry Emery, Self
Wayne Tennis, Chief of Police
Jennie Meyer, Zoning Administrator
John Valen, City Attorney
Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent Newspaper
Carolyn Schulz, Post 134 Legion
Lee Turney, Post 134 Legion
Ryan Pels, Post 134 Legion
Jerecho Worth, Self
Haylee Sandry, Self

CONSENT AGENDA – Mayor McMurrin
M/S Moore/Senenfelder to approve of consent agenda items 1 through 14 as follows, waiving the reading.

1. Approve of Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of August 18th, 2022.
2. Review and file draft of Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments regular meeting minutes of August 29th, 2022.
3. Review and file July 2022 Zoning Administrator Report.
4. Review and file draft of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of August 23rd, 2022.
5. Review and file Walker City Park draft projects list.
6. Review and file draft of Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of August 16th, 2022.
7. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
8. Approve of the Cash Balance Report dated July 31st, 2022.
9. Review and file Sales Tax Receipts dated August 10th, 2022.
10. Review and file Cass County Long-Range Transportation Plan – Local Agency Outreach Summary.
11. Approve of paying invoice no. 21166 in the amount of $4,050.00 to Turf Technology LLC for Evergreen Cemetery August lawn mowing, work on injector system, and replace faulty sprinkler.
12. Approve of paying invoice no. 233131 from CivicPlus LLC for Municode ordinance services in the amount of $2,572.49.

13. Approve of paying invoice no. 366108 from the League of Minnesota Cities in the amount of $1,270.00 for annual membership dues.
14. Approve of paying invoice for membership dues in the Minnesota Mayors Association in the amount of $30.00.

Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)

SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS – Mayor McMurrin

1. Dutch Schulz, Ryan Pels, and Janelle Mankie – presentation of plan for veteran's memorial requested to be placed in the Walker City Park.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS – Administrator Fairchild

None.

PARKS, CEMETERY & AIRPORT – Councilmember Moore

1. Discussion on presentation from Dutch Schulz, Ryan Pels, and Janelle Mankie - plan for veteran's memorial requested to be placed in the Walker City Park.
   Councilmember Wilkening expressed concern that park utilization is over on hard surface space (impervious surface coverage) and soon there will be no greenspace the park. However, he does like the concept of the Veteran's Memorial.
   Mayor McMurrin stated she believes this would be a gorgeous addition.
   Councilmember Senenfelder stated that the park is not in ADA compliance, so if we are allowing something like this, we have to look at making the park ADA compliant. He too likes the idea and believes the area in the park suggested does not get a lot of use.
   Senenfelder questioned maintenance and insurance. Public Works Director Ridlon stated that he would like to know what he is facing as far as maintenance.
   Mr. Schulz stated that maintenance could be done by a crew from the American Legion but could not speak on the insurance at this point.
   Councilmember Moore stated that all members should go look at the space.
   Councilmembers requested that the representatives of the American Legion present this idea to the Park Advisory Board.
2. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of the Park Advisory Board meeting minutes of July 26th, 2022.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Moore/Senenfelder** to approve the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of Walker WELS Worship Station: requested by St. Mark Lutheran Church for the use of the Upper City Park. Event to take place on Monday, September 12th, 2022, with set-up taking place at 6 p.m., actual event taking place from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m., and clean-up taking place at 8 p.m. Estimate of 20-30 participants and spectators.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S Moore/Wilkening** to direct the Park Advisory Board and City Staff to re-write Park Ordinance to only allow non-profit entities to use the Walker City Park.
   Administrator Fairchild stated that City Attorney Valen informed her that the City is allowed to only allow City-liquor licensed entities to sell within City limits. Administrator Fairchild mentioned another option would be to only allow non-profits small group gatherings.
   Councilmember Senenfelder stated that he does not have a problem with for-profit entities in the Park.
   Councilmember Wilkening brought up "general conduct" under our ordinance for the park, stating that we do not allow sale of intoxicating liquor.
   Administrator Fairchild stated that in her opinion the language is not clear in the ordinance, as it could be interpreted differently.
   Administrator Fairchild stated that she will work with the Park Advisory Board to update Park use ordinances to allow only non-profit entities and will work to clean-up City Park liquor rules.
   Roll call: Ayes: Moore, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Senenfelder, Hansen
   Motion passed (3-2)

PERSONNEL, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION – Councilmember Senenfelder

1. **M/S Senenfelder/Moore** to approve of claim no. 61003 to claim no. 61166 including voided check numbers 60966, 61053, and 61054, and bank drafts 901 to 910 in the amount of $319,489.92.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. Overview and discussion on proposed 2023 preliminary budget.
   Administrator Fairchild stated that the proposed 2023 preliminary budget and levy is a reflection of inflation and possible large increases to electric and gas bills, as well as one-time expenses preparing the City for employee retirement costs such as benefit payouts and new employee wages. Administrator Fairchild met with Region 5 city administrators and clerks, about 8 of them, and Walker's preliminary levy percentage (8.99%) was one of the lowest in comparison.
   Councilmember Wilkening stated that the City will be using current funds to cover the one-time costs relating to employee retirement.
3. **M/S Senenfelder/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 32-2022, a Resolution Adopting 2023 Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy, and Certifying Truth and Taxation Meeting.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S** Senenfelder/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 30-2022, a Resolution Approving of Minnesota Premises Permit for Lawful Gambling by Garfield Lake Ice Racer Club Inc. to take place at The Watershed, 101 5th Street North, Walker, Minnesota.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
5. **M/S** Senenfelder/Wilkening to approve of Resolution 33-2022, a Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Excess City Property.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

6. **M/S** Senenfelder/Moore to approve of Resolution 34-2022, a Resolution Authorizing the Trade of Excess City Property.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)
7. Discussion on update to North Memorial ambulance garage lease and subordinate taxing district request.
   Councilmember Senenfelder explained that based on the presentation given by representatives of North Memorial to the Walker Budget and Finance Committee, costs are 70%-74% percent labor costs, and an ambulance that used to cost $190,000.00 is now $270,000.00.
   Wilkening stated we must do something, so we do not lose the ambulance service.
   Administrator Fairchild explained all townships and cities within the licensed service area will have to approve of a subordinate taxing district before the Cass County and Hubbard County Board of Commissioners would approve of creating the taxing district.
   Administrator Fairchild further explained that according to the Cass County Administrator, the first step toward a subordinate taxing district would be the City of Walker lessening the ambulance building lease.
   Councilmembers agreed to propose a new lease with North Memorial for the ambulance garage with the following changes: City of Walker charges $1/year in rent, North Memorial must cover all insurance costs, maintenance/repair/utility costs, and property taxes.
   Administrator Fairchild will work with representatives of North Memorial to create the new lease agreement.

PLANNING AND ZONING, LIBRARY & LIQUOR STORE – Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of the Walker Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments Meeting minutes of July 25th, 2022.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Hansen/Senenfelder** to approve of Resolution 31-2022, a resolution approving of land use application 2022-06, a conditional use permit to build a duplex dwelling on the west end of parcel number 96-375-0081. Located at 401 Lake May Road, Walker, Minnesota, with stated findings of fact and conditions.
   Council member Senenfelder would also like a letter sent, ordering the garage be fixed up.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Hansen/Senenfelder** to approve of the Library Advisory Board meeting minutes of July 19th, 2022.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S Hansen/Senenfelder** to approve of the agreement between Meyer Group Architecture and the City of Walker for Walker Public Library Interior Design/Space Planning Consultant Services.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)

5. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of the Cost Proposal – Geotechnical Exploration and Review from American Engineering Testing for the new Walker Public Library site at the cost of $4,100.00.
   Councilmember Senenfelder pointed out that it should be clarified that this is not a "slab on grade foundation" construction.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)

PUBLIC WORKS – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening/Senenfelder** to approve of the Cost Proposal – Geotechnical Exploration & Review from American Engineering Testing for the proposed Northwest Area 2023 Street and Utility Improvements project in the amount of $7,750.00.
   Roll call: Ayes: Senenfelder, Moore, Hansen, Wilkening, McMurrin Nays: Motion passed (5-0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor McMurrin

- The Evergreen Cemetery will be conducting clean-up of the Cemetery grounds after September 18th, 2022. Cemetery personnel will be removing items from graves, including fresh and artificial flowers. Please remove any items you wish to save prior to September 18th, 2022.
- Upcoming meeting dates:
  - Public Works Committee meeting: 9/20/2022 at 7:00 a.m.
  - Library Advisory Board meeting: 9/20/2022 at 5:00 p.m.
  - Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting: 9/26/2022 at 6:00 p.m.
  - Park Advisory Board meeting: 9/27/2022 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor McMurrin

Mayor McMurrin adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

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Annie McMurrin, Mayor Hope Fairchild, City Administrator/Clerk-Trs.