WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
LOWER-LEVEL COMMUNITY ROOM
DALE AND HARRIET JONES WALKER PUBLIC LIBRARY
203 TOWER AVENUE, WALKER, MINNESOTA
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026

Call to Order – Mayor Worth

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Councilmembers present: Gene Granberg, Erin Haefele, Mary Beth Hansen, Gary Wilkening, Jerecho Worth
- Councilmembers absent: none
- Staff members present: Hope Fairchild, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Peter Anderley, Police Chief; Jennie Meyer, Zoning Administrator

- Others present during portions of the meeting include:

Trenton Buyer, Cabin Fever Co.	Drake Buyer, Cabin Fever Co.
Amie Ysteboe, WACC/Piggy BBQ	Dan Salitros, Public Works
Amy Knowles, Heritage Gifts	Rita Bovee, Self
Doug Putt, Lakeview Early Learning	

Consent Agenda – Mayor Worth

M/S Wilkening/Haefele to approve of consent agenda items 1 through 36 as follows, waiving the reading.

1. Approve of Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of March 2, 2026.
2. Review and file draft of Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments regular meeting minutes of March 30, 2026.
3. Review and file February 2026 Zoning Administrator Report.
4. Approve of Public Works Committee regular meeting minutes of March 17, 2026.
5. Review and file draft of Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of March 10, 2026.
6. Review and file draft of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of March 24, 2026.
7. Review and file draft of Walker Area Joint Fire Department Board regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2026.
8. Approve of Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of February 23, 2026.
9. Approve of Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of February 10, 2026.
10. Approve of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2026.

11. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
12. Approve of the Cash Balance Report and related spreadsheets dated February 28, 2026.
13. Approve of claim no. 66440 to claim no. 66516 and bank drafts 1413-1422, including voided check number 66493, in the amount of $289,342.43.
14. Review and file Sales Tax Receipts.
15. Review and file 2026 Mobile Food Units Schedule.
16. Review and file 2026 Temporary Liquor License Schedule.
17. Review and file 2026 Gambling Permits Schedule.
18. Review and file Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Notice of Environmental Review for 2026 West Side Project – Environmental Review for Wastewater Collection System Project.
19. Approve of paying invoice number 520730 in the amount of $5,000.00 to Abdo, LLP for final payment on the audit of financial statements for the year ended 12/31/2025.
20. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1084664 in the amount of $53,662.00 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for 2026 West Side Project professional services – basic services through March 1, 2026.
21. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1084665 in the amount of $9,337.00 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for 2026 West Side Project professional services – construction services through March 1, 2026.
22. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1084666 in the amount of $17,537.06 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for Tower Avenue Extension professional services through March 1, 2026.
23. Approve of paying invoice number 504331 in the amount of $2,280.00 to Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. for the Walker Municipal Airport 2026 Airfield Pavement Maintenance Final Design.
24. Approve of paying invoice number 504333 in the amount of $3,960.00 to Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. for the Walker Municipal Airport 2026 On-Airport Obstruction Removal Final Design and Construction.
25. Approve of paying $4,500.00 in fees to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for water and sewer application fees for the municipal water main and sanitary sewer crossing of Lake May Creek on Lake May Drive as a part of the 2026 West Side Project.
26. Approve of refunding John McElfresh's TIF deposit in the amount of $8,916.25.
27. Approve of the Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from the Walker Rotary Club to take place in the Walker City Park on June 16, 2026 in conjunction with the Walker Bay Live music event.
28. Approve of the Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from the Walker Rotary Club to take place in the Walker City Park on June 25, 2026 in conjunction with the Walker Bay Live music event.
29. Approve of the Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from the Walker Rotary Club to take place in the Walker City Park on July 16, 2026 in conjunction with the Walker Bay Live music event.
30. Approve of the Minnesota Lawful Gambling Application for Exempt Permit from the Walker Area Community Center to conduct Bingo at the Walker Area Community Center, located at 105 Tower Avenue.
31. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of Birthday Party Application on May 16, 2026 in the Upper City Park.
32. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the updated request for the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament Park Use Application.

33. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the Battle Against Hunger Fundraiser from the Walker Area Food Shelf to take place on June 18th, 2026 in the Upper City Park between 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
34. Approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve of proposal from AJ Cooling and Heating in the amount of $7,068.00 to replace the aged furnace in the City of Walker's clinic condo rented to Essentia Health.
35. Approve of the quote from Midwest Security and Fire/The Fire Group in the amount of $590.00 annually for Walker Public Library wet and dry sprinkler system inspection.
36. Approve of purchasing budgeted public works 1 ton GMC work truck from North Country GM in the amount of $49,117.20.
    Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
    Motion passed (5-0)

Public Hearings – Mayor Worth

1. Public hearing on Ordinance 2026-03, an Ordinance updating the City of Walker's fee schedule.
   Public hearing opened at: 6:01 p.m.
   No comments were heard.
   Public hearing closed at: 6:01 p.m.

Scheduled Presentations – Mayor Worth

None.

City Staff Comments – Administrator Fairchild

1. The City of Walker's independent financial auditing firm has pre-recorded and submitted the 2025 annual audit presentation. The audit presentation is publicly available on the City of Walker website by visiting www.ci.walker.mn.us, hovering over the "Government" tab, and clicking on "Financial Audits" page.

Budget, Administration & Public Works – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** to approve of accepting the 2025 Financial Audit as presented.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of Ordinance 2026-03, an Ordinance Adopting the 2026 Fee Schedule.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** to approve of issuing an On-Sale Intoxicating Convention Center Liquor License to the Walker Area Community Center located at 105 Tower Avenue East, pending submittal of liquor license fee.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
4. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of the 2026 donation request from the Walker Area Food Shelf in the amount of $2,500.00.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

5. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of not waiving the monetary limits on municipal tort liability under our liability insurance pursuant to Minn. Statute 466.04.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
6. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of Resolution 15-2026, a Resolution Accepting Bid for 2026 West Side Project.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
7. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** to approve of Resolution 16-2026, a Resolution Supporting the City of Walker Applying for Sourcewell Community Benefits Funds to Improve the City Park Lighthouse and Construct a Pavilion at the Walker Public Library.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

Personnel & Planning and Zoning – Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S Hansen/Haefele** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to approve of Ordinance 2026-02, an Ordinance Amending the Walker City Code to allow for watchman's quarters in certain zones.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to approve of Land Use Application 2026-02, a conditional use permit to operate a licensed daycare/learning center at 441 Walker Bay Boulevard.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Hansen/Haefele** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to approve of Land Use Application 2026-03, a conditional use permit to operate a cannabis flower and products retail business at 517 Minnesota Avenue West, with the following conditions:
   a. No On-Site Consumption: On-site consumption of cannabis products is not permitted on the premises.
   b. Compliance with State Regulations: The business must operate in full compliance with all Minnesota state cannabis regulations. If state regulations change and impact local operations, the City will provide written notice to the applicant. The applicant must demonstrate compliance within thirty days of that notice before any violation is enforced.
   c. Security Measures: The applicant must maintain security measures as presented, including ID verification, controlled access, and surveillance systems.
   d. Signage Compliance: All signage must comply with City of Walker ordinances.
   e. Exterior Compatibility: The exterior appearance, lighting, and storefront must remain consistent with the submitted plans and be compatible with surrounding properties.
   f. Nuisance Control: The business must not create a public nuisance as defined by the Walker City Code and Minnesota state law.
      i. Odor must not be continuous or repeatedly detected at the property line by a reasonable person under normal conditions despite the use of industry-standard mitigation.

ii. Noise must not exceed City Code limits or create a sustained disturbance.
iii. Enforcement: a violation shall not be based on a single isolated incident, unverified complaint, or factors outside of the business's control. Enforcement requires a documented pattern of at least three (3) verified complaints within ninety (90) days, or one confirmed substantial safety hazard. Upon verification, the City shall issue a written notice and allow fourteen (14) day cure period before further action

g. Waste Handling: All waste must be secured and disposed of in accordance with state regulations.
h. Operational Review: the City will conduct a compliance audit within twelve (12) months to verify adherence to permit conditions. This review is for informational and corrective purposes only, and does not constitute a re-approval process or alter the nature of the permit.

Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
Motion passed (5-0)

4. Discussion on parking lot expansion request from the WHA School District.
Councilmember Wilkening explained the stormwater portion of this proposed plan was discussed with the public works committee. It will also have to go in front of the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments. Councilmembers acknowledgment the school's need for closer parking, but had concerns regarding the removal of existing housing.

Cemetery & Parks – Councilmember Haefele

1. **M/S Haefele/Worth** to approve of accepting the quote from Hartman Custom Builders, LLC to replace the Lower City Park Pavilion at the cost of $58,632.07, which has been approved and covered by insurance.
Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Haefele/Wilkening** to approve of the quote number 22625 from Martin Snowplow and Equipment to purchase a 52" Exmark Lawnmower for the Walker Evergreen Cemetery.
Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
Motion passed (5-0)

Airport & Library – Councilmember Granberg

1. **M/S Granberg/Hansen** to approve of the updated Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library Meeting Room Rental Policy.
Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Granberg/Wilkening** to approve of the Standard Form of Agreement between the City of Walker and Fahrner Asphalt Sealer, Inc. and associated performance bonds for the 2026 Walker Municipal Airport Airfield Pavement Maintenance Project.
Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
Motion passed (5-0)

Announcements – Mayor Worth

- Upcoming meeting dates:
  - Library Advisory Board meeting: 5/12/2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Walker Area Joint Fire Department Board meeting: 4/09/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room)
  - Public Works Committee meeting: 4/21/2026 at 7:00 a.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Park Advisory Board meeting: 4/28/2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting: 4/27/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - City Council meeting: 4/16/2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
- Summary from March 2, 2026, City Council Meeting Closed Session: Administrator Hope Fairchild's job evaluation was performed, and she is meeting all requirements.

Adjournment – Mayor Worth

Mayor Worth adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

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