WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
LOWER-LEVEL COMMUNITY ROOM
DALE AND HARRIET JONES WALKER PUBLIC LIBRARY
203 TOWER AVENUE, WALKER, MINNESOTA
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 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; Dan Martin, Public Works Director; Jennie Meyer, Zoning Administrator

- Others present during portions of the meeting include:

Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent Newspaper
Collin Rehbein, WHA School
Doug Lenz, Walker Pickleball Club
Kyle Bergem, WHA School
Ryan Pels, Walker American Legion
Steve White, Walker Pickleball Club
Mary Andrus, Self
Kevin Wellen, WHA School
Steve Schilke, WHA School

Consent Agenda – Mayor Worth

M/S Worth/Wilkening 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 6, 2026.

2. Review and file draft of Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments regular meeting minutes of July 27, 2026.

3. Review and file June 2026 Zoning Administrator Report.

4. Approve of Public Works Committee regular meeting minutes of July 21, 2026.

5. Review and file draft of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of July 28, 2026.

6. Review and file draft of Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of July 14, 2026.

7. Review and file draft of Walker Area Joint Fire Department Board regular meeting minutes of July 9, 2026.

8. Approve of Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of June 29, 2026.

9. Approve of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of June 23, 2026.

10. Approve of Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of June 16, 2026.

11. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.

12. Approve of the Cash Balance Report and related spreadsheets dated June 30, 2026.

13. Approve of claim no. 66692 to claim no. 66781 and bank drafts 1462-1475, including voided check numbers 66739 and 66740, in the amount of $1,417,170.73.

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. Approve of paying invoice number PJI-090933 in the amount of $4,683.75 to American Engineering Testing for 2026 West Side Project materials testing.

19. Approve of paying invoice number 894869 in the amount of $9,500.00 to Dooley's Petroleum Inc. for purchase of fuel for resale at the Walker Municipal Airport.

20. Approve of proposal dated April 26, 2026 from Swanson Painting in the amount of $1,975.00 to repair and paint the front fence at the Walker Evergreen Cemetery.

21. Approve of paying Minnesota Public Facilities Authority General Obligation Bonds in the amount of $383,479.04 due on August 20, 2026 for City of Walker bonded past utility projects.

22. Approve of paying invoice number 511145 in the amount of $8,330.00 to Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) for Walker Municipal Airport 2026 Airfield Maintenance Project Construction Administration.

23. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1095078 in the amount of $4,085.00 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for 2026 Water Tower #2 Resurfacing & Safety Rail Installation project professional services completed through July 1, 2026.

24. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1095698 in the amount of $3,503.90 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for 2026 West Side Project professional services completed through July 1, 2026.

25. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1095076 in the amount of $13,824.50 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for Tower Avenue Extension Project professional services completed through July 1, 2026.

26. Approve of paying Notice of Unemployment Benefits Paid and Reimbursable Bill in the amount of $2,025.86 to Minnesota Unemployment Insurance for 2026 Quarter 2.

27. Approve of Resolution 27-2026, a Resolution Accepting Donations made to the City of Walker Through Fiscal Year 2026.

28. Approve of paying Application for Payment 1 to Viking Industrial Painting in the amount of $72,190.50 for work completed through June 30, 2026 on the 2026 Water Tower #1 Repainting and Safety Rail Installation Project.

29. Review and file League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust Group Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Plan Statement of Premium Audit Adjustment in the refund amount of $2,943.00.

30. Approve of quote number 71 in the amount of $7,500.00 from Up North Plumbing and Hearing Inc. to replace the air conditioning unit for the former liquor store located at 203 Minnesota Avenue West.

31. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the City Hall Rock Garden Use Permit from the Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Walker Bay Live for live music, food, and drinks on Friday, September 11, 2026 between 12 p.m. and 8 p.m.

32. Approve of paying invoice number W108612 in the amount of $7,534.00 to Bert's Truck Equipment of Moorhead for work completed on the new 2026 GMC Sierra 3500.

33. Approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve of the 2026 Ethnic Fest parade route and street closure request.

34. Approve of paying Application for Payment number 4 in the amount of $814,028.11 to Kuechle Underground, Inc. for West Side Project work completed through July 25, 2026.
    Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
    Motion passed (5-0)

Hearings – Mayor Worth
None.

Scheduled Presentations – Mayor Worth
None.

City Staff Comments – Administrator Fairchild
1. The 2026 Primary Election will occur on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. City of Walker residents will vote at the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library in the Lower-Level Community Room, located at 203 Tower Avenue in Walker, Minnesota between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Handicap parking spots, curb-side voting, and an elevator to the lower level are available to the public for use on election day.

Budget, Administration & Public Works – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of the Minnesota Lawful Gambling Application for Exempt Permit from Northern Cass County Ducks Unlimited Chapter 52 to conduct a raffle at the 502 Restaurant located at 502 Cleveland Boulevard, Walker, Minnesota.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

2. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of the Minnesota Lawful Gambling Application for Exempt Permit from the Bemidji State University Alumni & Foundation to conduct a raffle on August 22, 2026 at the Tianna Country Club located at 7470 State 34, Walker, Minnesota.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

3. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of the Minnesota Lawful Gambling Application for Exempt Permit from the Walker Area Community Center to conduct a raffle on March 17, 2027 at the Walker Area Community Center, located at 105 Tower Avenue, Walker, Minnesota.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** to 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 on August 6, 2026 in Chumley Park, located next to 600 Minnesota Avenue West, Walker, Minnesota.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

5. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of Resolution 26-2026, a Resolution Seeking State of Minnesota Revenue Sharing Fund to Sustain Deputy Registrar Offices.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

6. Discussion on creating an annual city-wide garage sale day in Walker.
   Discussion: The City Council would like to discuss further at the next month's meeting after receiving feedback through a community survey.

7. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of Walker Police Department Policy Number 50 – Classroom Discrimination Policy.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

8. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of the City Attorney rate increase in the amount of $250.00 per hour commencing on January 1, 2027.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

9. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to accept quote dated June 10, 2026 from Ulteig Operations, LLC in the amount of $15,800.00 for platting and engineering services on new workforce housing site (PID 96-135-0001) to be built by Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity.
   Discussion: Uleitg's quote included platting and engineering services. The City will be applying for the Sourcewell Third Party Reimbursement Funding in the amount of $15,000.00 for this project.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

10. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to table the discussion on request from Cass County to pay for repair to small area of sidewalk at the intersection of 4th Street and Michigan Avenue to the September meeting.
    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 LU-2026-08, a lot split at 202 Third Street South.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

2. Discussion on LU-2026-07, a rezone request and variance to increase allowable imperviousness to extend WHA School District's existing parking lot on 4th Street S, with presentation from CMTA engineers representing the School District.
   Discussion: Collin, with ICS, provided additional comments regarding the parking hardship and the need for a variance and rezoning. He stated that there is insufficient parking for staff and raised safety concerns for individuals who must cross streets to attend events when parking is limited. He noted that there is only one safe and secure entrance door, which is located across the street from the proposed parking area.

Kevin Wellen, Superintendent, explained that the additional parking is primarily needed for citizens attending events, particularly senior citizens and individuals with limited mobility, rather than for school staff.
Councilmembers questioned the possibility of a shuttle system to assist attendees. Representatives of WHA explained that they do not have the staffing or buses necessary to provide transportation for events. Councilmembers also suggested considering a redesignation of the existing parking lot, such as reserving spaces for elderly or mobility-limited individuals.
The Council discussed concerns regarding screening and landscaping, particularly in the area where trees would need to be removed.

3. **M/S Hansen/Haefele** to approve of Ordinance 2026 09, an ordinance amending Chapter 18 – Nuisances, (16).
   Discussion: The City Council discussed adding to Ordinance 2026-09, Chapter 18-4 – Public nuisances affecting peace and safety, (16): "(e) In this Chapter, "Unsheltered or open storage of personal property" includes, but is not limited to, the outdoor storage of household items, furniture, appliances, building materials, vehicle parts, machinery, or accumulation of personal property when such items are visible from a public right-of-way or adjacent property, not customarily incidental to normal residential use, not maintained in a neat, orderly, and organized manner or exposed to the elements in a manner that may lead to deterioration, unsightliness, or neighborhood incompatibility." This would expand on definitions of terms used in ordinance for greater clarity.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to approve of the Walker Police Department Union Agreement dated July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

<u>Cemetery & Parks – Councilmember Haefele</u>

1. Discussion on the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the Walker American Legion's placement of a veteran's memorial near the dirt turn-around area in the Upper City Park, contingent upon measurement of and an agreement on the specific memorial area size.
   Discussion: The City Council would like dimensional details, placement, and detailed plans of the request to review.

2. Discussion on the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of placing a donated box that includes an AED, CPR pack, and bleed control kit to be installed near the sport courts in the Walker City Park.
   Discussion: The City Council stated concerns about safety and responsibility regarding vandalism and the City's liability if the AED is not properly maintained. The City Council tabled this discussion and would like to create an AED policy.

3. **M/S Haefele/Worth** to approve of the bid dated March 15, 2026 from Swanson Painting LLC to clean, repair, and re-paint the lighthouse in the Walker City Park in the amount of $3,850.00, with a grant from Sourcewell in the amount of $3,000.00.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

Airport & Library – Councilmember Granberg

1. **M/S Granberg/Haefele** to approve of estimate number 233 from Andrews P&H Inc. in the amount of $3,075.00 to install a mini-split heating and cooling system in the Walker Municipal Airport A/D building.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

2. **M/S Granberg/Worth** to approve of the Kitchigami Regional Library System Levy Request from the City of Walker in the amount of $19,879.00 plus City ARR reserve in the amount of $406.00.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

Announcements – Mayor Worth

- Upcoming meeting dates:
  - Library Advisory Board meeting: 8/12/2026 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: 8/13/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room)
  - Public Works Committee meeting: 8/18/2026 at 7:00 a.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - City Council work session: 8/20/2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Park Advisory Board meeting: 8/25/2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting: 8/31/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - City Council meeting: 9/08/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)

Adjournment – Mayor Worth

Mayor Worth adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

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