WALKER CITY COUNICL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
LOWER-LEVEL COMMUNITY ROOM
DALE AND HARRIET JONES WALKER PUBLIC LIBRARY
203 TOWER AVENUE, WALKER, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

Call to Order – Acting Mayor Hansen

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Councilmembers present: 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; Chad Ayshford, Police Officer; Zoning Administrator

- Others present during portions of the meeting include:

Gene Granberg, Self	Maggie Melby, Self
Christian Ridlon, Self	Dan Martin, Self
Isaac Thoe, Self	Hannah Fietek, Self

Consent Agenda – Acting Mayor Hansen

M/S Wilkening/Worth to approve of consent agenda items 1 through 9 as follows, waiving the reading.

1. Approve of Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of December 1, 2025.
2. Approve of paying Application for Payment Application 3 in the amount of $60,574.50 to Hy-Tec Construction for work completed on the Walker City Park public restrooms construction project through November 30, 2025.
3. Approve of paying Statement Number 15772 in the amount of $2,880.00 to Ramstad, Skoyles, & Bakken, PA for city attorney services.
4. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1077209 in the amount of $6,953.00 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for Tower Avenue Extension project professional services completed through November 30, 2025.
5. Approve of making payment to the City of Walker from the Walker DMV account to cover 2025 DMV expenses by 12/31/2025.
6. Approve of paying invoice number SI000729888 in the amount of $3,487.38 to Ziegler Companies for water and sewer generator repairs.

7. Approve of paying invoice number 499431 in the amount of $5,940.00 to SEH, Inc. for airport engineering services performed on the Walker Municipal Airport obstruction study.
8. Approve of paying invoice number 40858 in the amount of $12,030.98 to Martin's Snowplow & Equipment for the purchase and installation of snowplow to the 2025 GMC truck purchased in spring 2025.
9. Approve of transfers from the Water Fund 601 totaling $149,271.00 and the Sewer Fund 602 totaling $176,671.00 to the Debt Service Funds 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, and 310 for the debt on the General Obligation Bonds.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)

Scheduled Presentations – Acting Mayor Hansen

1. Swearing in of new Police Officer Chad Ayshford by Police Chief Peter Anderely.

City Staff Comments – Administrator Fairchild

None.

City Council Applicant Interviews – Acting Mayor Hansen

1. Three of the six applicants responded that they would like to move forward with the interview process for the open City Council position. Applicants will be interviewed in the order in which they applied. Each applicant has received the interview questions ahead of time. Each applicant will sit at the City Council chambers desk and have about 20 minutes to respond to questions asked by the City Council. Current members of the City Council may ask clarifying questions throughout the interview. The City Council will plan to approve of appointing one of the applicants at their January 5, 2026 meeting.
   a. Christian Ridlon
   b. Margaret Melby
   c. Gene Granberg

Personnel, Budget & Administration – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening/Haefele** to approve of the Minnesota Lawful Gambling Application for Exempt Permit from Northern Cass Ducks Unlimited Chapter 52 to conduct a bingo and raffle at the Walker American Legion located at 407 Front Street on January 27, 2026.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
2. **M/S Wilkening/Hansen** to approve of accepting the Professional Auditing Services Proposal from ABDO.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
3. **M/S Wilkening/Haefele** to approve of requesting to purchase Cass County property identified as 96-135-0001 at the appraised cost of $150,000.00 to be reimbursed by the Cass County Economic Development Corporation, to create workforce housing in partnership with Cass County EDC and Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)

Planning and Zoning, Parks – Councilmember Haefele
None.

Library, Cemetery & Airport – Councilmember Haefele
None.

Public Works – Councilmember Wilkening
None.

Announcements – Acting Mayor Hansen
- City Hall and the DMV will be closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, 2025.
- City Hall and the DMV will be closed on Thursday, December 25, 2025, and Friday, December 26, 2025.
- Upcoming meeting dates:
  - Library Advisory Board meeting: 1/13/2026 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: 1/08/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room)
  - Public Works Committee meeting: 1/20/2026 at 7:00 a.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Park Advisory Board meeting: 1/27/2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting: 12/29/2025 at 6:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - City Council meeting: 1/05/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)

Adjournment – Acting Mayor Hansen
Acting Mayor Hansen adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

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