WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
LOWER-LEVEL COMMUNITY ROOM
DALE AND HARRIET JONES WALKER PUBLIC LIBRARY
203 TOWER AVENUE, WALKER, MINNESOTA
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

Call to Order – Mayor Worth

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Councilmembers present: Gene Granberg, Erin Haefele, Mary Beth Hansen, Jerecho Worth
- Councilmembers absent: Gary Wilkening
- 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:

Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent Newspaper
Greg Schendel, Miner's Inc.
Ryan Pels, Walker American Legion
Dave Vadnais, Miner's Inc.
Tim Fosness, Miner's Inc.

Consent Agenda – Mayor Worth

M/S Worth/Hansen to approve of consent agenda items 1 through 43 as follows, waiving the reading.

1. Approve of Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of May 4, 2026.

2. Review and file draft of Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments regular meeting minutes of May 18, 2026.

3. Review and file April 2026 Zoning Administrator Report.

4. Approve of Public Works Committee regular meeting minutes of May 19, 2026.

5. Review and file draft of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of May 26, 2026.

6. Review and file draft of Cemetery Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of May 27, 2026.

7. Review and file draft of Walker Area Joint Fire Department Board regular meeting minutes of May 14, 2026.

8. Approve of Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of April 27, 2026.

9. Approve of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of April 28, 2026.

10. Approve of Cemetery Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of July 16, 2025.

11. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.

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

13. Approve of claim no. 66574 to claim no. 66637 and bank drafts 1433 to 1438 and 1446-1448, including voided check numbers 66622 and 66623, in the amount of $329,012.85.

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 Resolution 21-2026, a Resolution Accepting Donations Made to the City of Walker through Fiscal Year 2026.

19. Review and file Cass County Environmental Services Notice for a Hearing for a Conditional Use Permit.

20. Review and file letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency granting approval of facility plan and final plans for the West Side Project Walker Collections System.

21. Approve of paying North Memorial Health – Ambulance Service $41,446.88 from the State of Minnesota as a grant payment for Walker area ambulance services.

22. Approve of paying invoice number 0563885 in the amount of $6,497.83 to Fergeson Water Works for irrigation meters at Tianna Estates and WHA School District, to be paid back by the previously mentioned entities.

23. Approve of paying Application for Payment Number 7 in the amount of $37,348.81 to Hy-Tec Construction for City Park Public Restrooms Project work completed through April 30, 2026.

24. Approve of paying invoice number 5039 in the amount of $7,068.00 to AJ Heating and Cooling for a furnace replacement at the Walker Clinic building.

25. Approve of Application for Payment number 2 in the amount of $495,011.09 to Kuechle Underground, Inc. for work completed on the 2026 West Side Construction Project through May 27, 2026.

26. Approve of paying invoice number 42581 in the amount of $14,799.58 to Martin's Snowplow and Equipment for purchase of a lawnmower for the cemetery.

27. Approve of paying invoice number 3892 in the amount of $2,000.00 to Northern Harbor Dock and Lift for installation of city docks.

28. Approve of paying $4,600.00 to the Walker Community Health Center Condominium for payment of annual association dues.

29. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1089599 in the amount of $20,842.67 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for professional services completed through May 1, 2026 on the Tower Avenue Extension project.

30. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1089601 in the amount of $22,602.82 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for professional services completed through May 1, 2026 on the West Side Project.

31. Approve of estimate order number 23116 in the amount of $4,006.64 from Martin Snowplow and Equipment for snowplow wiring and mount installation on 2026 GMC truck.

32. Approve of estimate number 17837 in the amount of $6,949.00 to Bert's Truck Equipment of Moorhead for installation of lighting, back rack, and toolboxes for new public works truck arriving at the end of June.

33. Approve of quote number 2627 in the amount of $3,800.00 to Turf Technology LLC for purchase of Walker City Park playground mulch.

34. Approve of the Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from Portage Brewing Company to take place on June 13, July 3, August 8, and September 12, 2026 in the Arvig parking lot adjacent to the Portage Brewing Company property, located at 414 Michigan Avenue.

35. 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 June 25, 2026 at Chumley Park near First National Bank Walker.

36. Approve of the following Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor Licenses from the Walker Lions Club:
    - On August 20 – 22, 2026 at 309 5th Street N, Walker, MN
    - On July 2, 2026 in the Walker City Park
    - On July 9, 2026 in the Walker City Park

37. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to authorize a family reunion event to take place in the Lower City Park and Lighthouse on June 19th, 2026 between 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

38. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to authorize food and beverage service by the Walker Lions Club in the Lower City Park on July 2, 2026 in conjunction with the Walker Bay Live music event.

39. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to authorize food and beverage service by the Walker Lions Club in the Lower City Park on July 9, 2026 in conjunction with the Walker Bay Live music event.

40. Approve of transferring $150,000.00 of Federal Aviation Administration Entitlement Funding to the City of Tower, Minnesota, with the funds to be paid back in 2027.

41. Approve of the Supplemental Letter Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Walker and Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., effective October 6, 2025, for the 2026 Off-Airport Obstruction Removal and Land Acquisition project in the amount of $346,300.00, contingent upon successful Independent Fee Estimate completed, as a requirement of the FAA based on contact costs over $100,000.00.

42. Approve of the Supplemental Letter Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Walker and Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., effective October 6, 2025, for the Environmental Assessment of the Off-Airport Obstruction Removal and Land Acquisition project in the amount of $43,200.00.

43. Approve of the Proposal for Inspection Services dated May 22, 2026 from KLM Engineering in the amount of $72,494.00 for the inspection of the Water Tower #1 Repainting and Safety Installation Project.

Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
Motion passed: (4-0)

Hearings – Mayor Worth

1. **M/S Worth/Granberg** to approve of sending a notice, giving property owners two more weeks to complete abatement of nuisance violations on the following properties, prior to hiring a company to abate nuisances:
    a. 506 4th Street S
    b. 209 4th Street S
    c. 612 4th Street S

    Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
    Motion passed: (4-0)

Scheduled Presentations – Mayor Worth
None.

City Staff Comments – Administrator Fairchild
None.

Budget, Administration & Public Works – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of Resolution 22-2026, a Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds in the amount of $1,000,000.00 from the General Fund 101 to the Capital Equipment Fund 506.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed: (4-0)

2. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of the Donation Request from Walker Bay Theater in the amount of $1,000.00.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed: (4-0)

3. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of Ordinance 2026-07, an Ordinance amending the Walker City Code – Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed: (4-0)

4. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of Resolution 23-2026, a Resolution to Appoint Election Judges to the August 11, 2026 Primary Election and the November 3, 2026 General Election.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed: (4-0)

5. **M/S Granberg/Worth** approving of starting regular City Council work sessions, starting in August.
   Discussion: Councilmember Hansen reported attending a work session in Hackensack, where council members engage in discussion without taking formal action. She suggested that a similar format could provide an opportunity for productive conversations regarding current issues, future goals, and community priorities. Administrator Fairchild advised that care should be taken to avoid encroaching on the responsibilities of boards and commissions. Mayor Worth agreed that the sessions could be beneficial for communication and growth and supported a quarterly schedule. Councilmember Granberg emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge and information among council members, particularly with new members expected to join the council in the next term.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed: (4-0)

6. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of Resolution 24-2026, a Resolution Approving of the Downtown Traffic Reliever Route Project (Tower Avenue Extension Project). **Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays: Motion passed: (4-0)**

Personnel & Planning and Zoning – Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of Resolution 20-2026, a Resolution Approving of Land Use Application 2026-05, a Conditional Use Permit to Construct the Super One Liquor Store.
   Discussion: Councilmember Haefele stated that the applicant came to the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustmetns with a well thought out plan, listened to neighbors and the public hearing and addressed concerns well.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed: (4-0)

Cemetery & Parks – Councilmember Haefele

1. Discussion on the veterans memorial rendering received from the Spencer Ross American Legion Post #134 located in the dirt turn-around area in the Upper City Park.
   Discussion: Administrator Fairchild received the renderings after the due date for Park Board, but it will go to the Park Board meeting on June 23rd.

2. **M/S Haefele/Worth** to approve of the recommendation of the Cemetery Advisory Board to approve of Ordinance 2026-08, an Ordinance Amending the Walker City Code – Chapter 10 Cemeteries.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed: (4-0)

3. **M/S Granberg/Hansen** to work with the Walleyes and Wheelchairs organization to fundraise for and install a handicap accessible ramp and lift in the grassy area to the right of the boat launch area in the Lower City Park.
   Discussion: Councilmember Granberg reported that he has been working on the project since January and stated that the organization involved is highly regarded and has a strong reputation for its work. If approved by the City Council, the organization intends to begin fundraising efforts by the end of the summer. Councilmember Granberg noted that several permits will be required, some of which may take time to obtain. The project will also require excavation of the slope before concrete can be installed. He further noted that the Park Advisory Board expressed a desire for the concrete to include an aesthetic finish, and the organization has indicated its willingness to accommodate that request.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed: (4-0)

Airport & Library – Councilmember Granberg

1. **M/S Granberg/Worth** to approve of the recommendation of the Library Advisory Board to purchase a display case for the Lois Orton Local Heritage and History Display at the cost of $2,909.00 plus shipping.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)

Announcements – Mayor Worth

- City Offices and the DMV will be closed on Friday, June 19, 2026 in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.
- City Offices and the DMV will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2026 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.
- Upcoming meeting dates:
  - Library Advisory Board meeting: 6/16/2026 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: 6/11/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room)
  - Public Works Committee meeting: 6/16/2026 at 7:00 a.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Park Advisory Board meeting: 6/23/2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting: 6/29/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - City Council meeting: 7/06/2026 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 6:22 p.m.

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