WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
LOWER-LEVEL COMMUNITY ROOM
DALE AND HARRIET JONES WALKER PUBLIC LIBRARY
203 TOWER AVENUE, WALKER, MINNESOTA
MONDAY, MAY 4, 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 Anderely, Police Chief; Dan Martin, Public Works Director; Jennie Meyer, Zoning Administrator

Consent Agenda – Mayor Worth

M/S Hansen/Granberg to approve of consent agenda items 1 through 35 as follows, waiving the reading.

1. Approve of Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of April 6, 2026.
2. Approve of Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of April 16, 2026.
3. Review and file draft of Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments regular meeting minutes of April 27, 2026.
4. Review and file March 2026 Zoning Administrator Report.
5. Approve of Public Works Committee regular meeting minutes of April 21, 2026.
6. Review and file draft of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of April 28, 2026.
7. Review and file draft of Walker Area Joint Fire Department Board regular meeting minutes of April 9, 2026.
8. Approve of Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of March 30, 2026.
9. Approve of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of March 24, 2026.
10. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
11. Approve of the Cash Balance Report and related spreadsheets dated March 31, 2026.
12. Approve of claim no. 66517 to claim no. 66573 and bank drafts 1423 to 1432 and 1439, including voided check number 66552, in the amount of $491,990.28.
13. Review and file Sales Tax Receipts.
14. Review and file 2026 Mobile Food Units Schedule.
15. Review and file 2026 Temporary Liquor License Schedule.

16. Review and file 2026 Gambling Permits Schedule.
17. Approve of Resolution 19-2026, a Resolution Accepting Donations Made to the City of Walker through Fiscal Year 2026.
18. Approve of paying invoice number CI100-00275117 in the amount of $13,528.87 to Tyler Technologies for annual accounting and water billing software.
19. Approve of paying the proposal dated April 20, 2026 in the amount of $5,000.00 to Tony Klave Industrial for replacement of handrail at the Walker Professional Building located on 6th Street South.
20. Approve of paying invoice number WK2026-1 in the amount of $10,056.00 to Kitchigami Regional Library System for the first half of the City of Walker's 2026 Levy.
21. Approve of proposal number P-0051977 in the amount of $42,020.00 to American Engineering Testing for West Side Project required material sampling and testing.
22. Approve of paying $103,312.00 to the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for liability insurance from May 1, 2026 to May 1, 2027.
23. Approve of paying Application for Payment Number 1 in the amount of $87,060.85 to Kuechle Underground, Inc. for West Side Project materials and work completed through May 1, 2026.
24. Approve of paying Service Quotation dated April 30, 2026 in the amount of $2,858.73 to McCoy Construction & Forestry, Inc. for replacement of DEF Header on backhoe.
25. Approve of the Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from the Walker Rotary Club to operate on May 31, 2026 at the Walker City Park in conjunction with the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament.
26. Review and file email from the Cass County Environmental Services Director regarding Cass County Land Use Ordinance updates and changes.
27. Approve of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve of the Event/Street Closure Permit Application from Chase on the Lake to close 20 parking spaces for race car viewing on May 16, 2026 between 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., contingent upon receival of damage deposit.
28. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the Park Use Application for North Central Bass Fishing Tournament to take place in the Lower City Park on August 16, 2026.
29. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the Park Use Applications for the Walker Bay Live Musical Event and Walker Rotary Food and Beverage Service in the following location and dates:
    - Upper City Park on June 18th, 2026
    - Undetermined in the City Park on June 25th, 2026
    - Undetermined in the City Park on July 16, 2026
30. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the Park Use Application for Michaud Family Fun Day to take place in the Lower City Park on July 25, 3036 between 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
31. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the Park Use Application for Lief's 3rd Birthday Party to take place in the Upper City Park on May 9, 2026 between noon and 4 p.m.
32. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the Park Use Application for Walker American Legion Riders (ALR) Fundraiser Food and Beverage

Service to take place in the Upper City Park Pavilion on July 9, 2026 between noon and 8:30 p.m.

33. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the Park Use Application for the Leech Lake Block Party to take place throughout the entire City Park on July 31, 2026 and August 1, 2026, contingent upon receival of insurance.
34. Approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to appoint Amie Ysteboe to her first term on the Park Advisory Board in the Shingobee Township resident seat.
35. Approve of the quote dated May 4, 2026 from Tyler's Backhoe Service in the amount of $10,000.00 for On-Airport Obstruction (tree) removal.

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

Public Hearings – Mayor Worth

None.

Scheduled Presentations – Mayor Worth

1. Presentation from Vicki Breneman – Request to plant trees on boulevard along Railroad Avenue in front of townhomes.

City Staff Comments – Administrator Fairchild

1. The 2026 West Side Project has begun, and the City of Walker is holding weekly meetings on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Walker Public Library in the Lower-Level Community Room. More information about the project can be found on the city's website.
2. We are gearing up for another election year! City of Walker Council and Mayor filing will occur July 14, 2026 – July 28, 2026. We will also begin contacting previous and new election judge candidates for appointment approval at the June City Council meeting, with election judge training occurring in June. More information about upcoming elections can be found on the City's website.
3. The City of Walker has sent out instructions for signing up for Nixle, Cass County's emergency notification system, via mail. Instructions have also been posted online and can be found on the City's website. This is a voluntary program and those interested in receiving emergency notifications must sign up for them.
4. The City of Walker has requested input from the community on reimaging the Upper City Park pavilion area. All submissions are due by Friday, June 5, 2026.

Budget, Administration & Public Works – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of Ordinance 2026-04, an Ordinance Amending the Walker City Code.

    Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
    Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of Ordinance 2026-05, an Ordinance Amending the Walker City Code.

    Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
    Motion passed (5-0)
3. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of Ordinance 2026-06, an Ordinance Amending the Walker City Code.

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

4. **M/S Wilkening/Hafele** to deny Vicki Breneman's request to plant trees within the boulevard of Railroad and to approve of the association to plant trees on their own property near the boulevard.
   Discussion: The Council discussed the adoption of the rights-of-way regulation in city ordinance from state statute. It includes that trees would not be replanted within boulevard areas located in public rights-of-way due to location and potential damage of utilities. Administrator Fairchild will prepare a letter notifying the association of the Council's decision. Property owners may plant trees on private property, provided they do not encroach into the public right-of-way.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
5. **M/S Wilkening/Worth** to approve of the On-Sale Liquor License Application from Jackie Collins located at 411 Minnesota Avenue West with the following contingencies:
   - Proof of lease for space
   - Successful background check completed
   - Receivals of proof of insurance, liquor license fee, and completed applications with business name

   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
6. Discussion on WHA School District platted street vacation request between 4th and 5th Streets.
   Discussion: the street vacation request will still need to be approved by the City Council. City Administrator Fairchild stated that she would wait to process the vacation request until after the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments made a determination on the variance request for the proposed parking lot expansion.

Personnel & Planning and Zoning – Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of the recommendation of the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments to approve of Land Use Application 2026-04, a Conditional Use Permit to allow watchman's quarters at 7981 Townhall Road NW, with the stated findings of fact and conditions listed in the staff report.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Hansen/Worth** to approve of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Walker and Teamsters General Local Union No. 346: Amendment to Article 5, Section D – Length of Probationary Period.
   Roll call: Ayes: Granberg, Haefele, Hansen, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (5-0)

Cemetery & Parks – Councilmember Haefele

1. **M/S Haefele/Wilkening** to approve of the recommendation of the Park Advisory Board to approve of the request of the Walker Area Pickleball Club to:
   - Hold dedicated tennis time on the tennis court from Sunday – Saturday between the times of 7 a.m. – 9 a.m., 2 p.m. – dusk.

- Have open playing time for both pickleball players and tennis players (with preference to tennis players) on the tennis court from Sunday – Saturday between the times of 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Create signage to communicate these playing times.
- Hold a 30-day trial beginning on June 1, 2026 to obtain feedback and determine next steps.
- Tennis court will only be used by pickleball players for overflow playing – all pickleball courts must be in use.

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

2. Discussion on the consideration of creating a second City Park to house a skate park and a dog park.
   Discussion: The City Council discussed the addition of a second city park on a city-owned parcel near the Walker Area Community Center. This parcel would be accessible when the Tower Avenue street extension occurs. The park could include a dog park and a skate park. The City Council discussed the South City Park area, where an agreement was submitted to the Walker American Legion to install a veterans memorial. This agreement has not been signed, and the Legion has noted that they may be interested in the Upper City Park pavilion area. Administrator Fairchild will reach out to the Walker American Legion and request that they inform the City of the location they would like to move forward. The City Council noted that South City Park would be a great location for a skate park.

Airport & Library – Councilmember Granberg

None.

Announcements – Mayor Worth

- City Offices and the DMV will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026 in observance of Memorial Day.
- City-wide spring curbside pick-up of bagged leaves and branches will occur between May 11, 2026 and May 13, 2026.
- The Public Works Department will flush hydrants during the week of May 11th, 2026. Water mains are routinely flushed to clean the distribution system. Rusty water may be evident during flushing. If discoloration exists, residents should run the cold tap until it becomes clear.
- 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: 5/14/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room)
  - Public Works Committee meeting: 5/19/2026 at 7:00 a.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Park Advisory Board meeting: 5/26/2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting: 5/18/2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)

- City Council meeting: 6/01/2026 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 6:58 p.m.

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