WALKER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
LOWER-LEVEL COMMUNITY ROOM
DALE AND HARRIET JONES WALKER PUBLIC LIBRARY
203 TOWER AVENUE, WALKER, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Call to Order – Mayor Worth

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Councilmembers present: Erin Haefele, Mary Beth Hansen, Char Moore, Gary Wilkening, Jerecho Worth
- Council members absent: none
- Staff members present: Hope Fairchild, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Peter Anderley, Police Chief; Jennie Meyer, Zoning Administrator; Dan Martin, Public Works Director

- Others present during portions of the meeting include:

Dean Morrill, Pilot Independent Newspaper
Tyler Anderson, Self
Jerry Bolin, Karvakko Engineering
Jeff Kellogg, Self
Bob Moore, Self
Alex Klave, Self
Reno Wells, Turtle Lake Township

City Council Appointment and Swearing In

1. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of appointing Erin Haefele to the open City Council with term ending on December 31, 2026.
   Roll call: Ayes: Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth Nays:
   Motion passed (4-0)
2. City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Fairchild will swear in Councilmember Haefele.

Consent Agenda – Mayor Worth

M/S Moore/Wilkening to approve of consent agenda items 1 through 29 as follows, waiving the reading.

1. Approve of Walker City Council regular meeting minutes of August 4, 2025.
2. The August 25, 2025, Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting was not held due to lack of business.
3. Approve of Public Works Committee regular meeting minutes of August 19, 2025.
4. Review and file draft Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of August 12, 2025.

5. Review and file draft of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of August 26, 2025.
6. Review and file draft of Walker Area Joint Fire Department Board regular meeting minutes of August 14, 2025.
7. Review and file Walker Police Department Monthly Report.
8. Approve of the Cash Balance Report and related spreadsheets dated July 31, 2025.
9. Approve of claim no. 65819 to claim no. 65937 and bank drafts 1331-1340, including voided check numbers 65889, 65890, and 65903 in the amount of $1,006,791.30.
10. Review and file Sales Tax Receipts.
11. Review and file 2025 Mobile Food Units Schedule.
12. Review and file 2025 Temporary Liquor License Schedule.
13. Review and file 2025 Gambling Permits Schedule.
14. Approve of Park Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of July 22, 2025.
15. Approve of Library Advisory Board regular meeting minutes of June 10, 2025.
16. Review and file letter from the League of Minnesota Cities regarding the consideration of a maximum 5% increase to the membership dues schedule for the 2026 fiscal year.
17. Approve of request to transfer $95,790.00 from the Fund 500 - Streets Capital Project – Sidewalk Funds to the Downtown Project Fund 519 to cover the cost of the main street sidewalk repair and replacement.
18. Approve of paying invoice number 27132 in the amount of $4,280.00 to Turf Technology, LLC for July lawnmowing of Walker Evergreen Cemetery.
19. Approve of paying invoice number 102684 in the amount of $2,765.00 to Ehler's for preparation of 2024 TIF Reports.
20. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1067935 in the amount of $9,993.75 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for engineering services performed through August 1, 2025 on the Walker City Park Public Restrooms Construction Project.
21. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1067932 in the amount of $73,919.00 to Ulteig Operations, LLC for engineering services performed through July 5, 2025 on the 2025 Downtown Street & Sidewalk Project.
22. Approve of paying invoice number ARIV1067930 in the amount of $55,686.40 to Ulteig Engineers, LLC for engineering services performed through August 1, 2025 for 2027 Tower Avenue Extension Project.
23. Approve of paying invoice number IN782692 in the amount of $4,751.29 to TriMark Industrial for street maintenance materials, specifically a chloride solution for dust control.
24. Approve of paying invoice number 75884 in the amount of $2,254.65 to Norms Auto Body & Repair for repair work on the 2018 Ford Police vehicle.
25. Approve of paying email payment request dated August 11, 2025 in the amount of $4,600.00 to Walker Health Center – Clinic for annual association dues.
26. Approve of the Event/Street Closure Permit Application from the Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for the Festival of Lights parade, to take place on November 28, 2025 on Highway 371 between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
27. Approve of the Event/Street Closure Permit Application from the WHA Student Council for the 2025 Student Council Homecoming Parade on September 19, 2025 between 12 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
28. Approve of paying invoice number 755373 in the amount of $9,360.00 to Dooley's Petroleum, LLC for airport fuel for resale.

29. Review and file thank-you letter from the Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director.
    Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
    Motion passed (5-0)

Public Hearings – Mayor Worth

None.

Scheduled Presentations – Mayor Worth

1. Presentation from Turtle Lake Township Chair Reno Wells – Adjustment of Library Advisory Board member make-up to allow for a rotating elected Township representative.
   Presentation: Mr. Wells requested that the City Council consider adding or changing a position on the Library Advisory Board to a rotating elected township representative seat. This would help educate and create buy-in from elected officials of surrounding townships since we know that users of the library are not strictly Walker residents.

City Staff Comments – Administrator Fairchild

1. The City of Walker has the following open advisory board and commission seats:
    a. Park Advisory Board
        i. One open seat for one resident of Shingobee Township
    b. Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments
        i. One open seat for one resident of Walker or owner of property within the City of Walker
    c. Library Advisory Board
        i. Two open seats for residents of the City of Walker
2. The 2026 Preliminary Budget will be set at the September 18, 2025 City Council meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Personnel, Budget & Administration – Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of amended 2025 City Council Committee Appointments, as presented by Mayor Jerecho Worth.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. Discussion on request from the Walker Bay Spirits Liquor Store Manager for payout of ½ accumulated sick time for all liquor store employees at the time of municipal liquor store closure.
   Discussion: The Walker City Council agreed to table the matter until the October 6 City Council meeting.
3. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of Resolution 24-2025, a Resolution Approving and Authorizing Sale of Real Property Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 412.211.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)

4. **M/S Hansen/Wilkening** to approve of the Purchase Agreement between the City of Walker and the Walker Ambulance Primary Service Area Special Taxing District for the sale of 96-375-0031, also known as the Walker Ambulance Garage.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)
5. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of Resolution 25-2025, a Resolution Supporting the Walker Police Department in Applying for Sourcewell Impact Funding to Purchase Cameras to be Deployed Throughout the City of Walker.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)
6. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of applying for the Sourcewell Third-Party Services Reimbursement Funding for City Hall Rock Garden full fall clean-out and spring 2026 replanting of sustainable native flowers and grasses at the estimated cost of $15,000.00.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)
7. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of the Walker Police Department Policy Number 49 – School Resource Officer.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)

Planning and Zoning, Library & Liquor Store – Councilmember Hansen

1. **M/S Hansen/Moore** to approve of the 2026 Proposed Kitchigami Regional Library System operating Budget for the City of Walker in the amount of $19,706.00.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. Discussion on make-up of Library Advisory Board.
   Discussion: The City Council discussed making changes to the Library Advisory Board make-up, including only having one City Council representative on the board, and adding a rotating elected township representative seat. City Administrator Fairchild will bring the updated draft ordinance to the October 6 City Council meeting.

Parks, Cemetery & Airport – Councilmember Moore

1. **M/S Moore/Worth** to approve of The Sourcewell-Gordian Contract between the City of Walker and Hy-Tec Construction for the construction of the Walker City Park Public Restrooms Project in the amount of $325,341.71.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Moore/Hansen** to approve of the recommendation of the City Administrator to approve of accepting the Statement of Qualifications for Airport Engineering Consultant from Adinda Van Espen and Melissa Underwood of Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)

Public Works – Councilmember Wilkening

1. **M/S Wilkening/Moore** to approve of Minnesota Power work order number 5192391 in the amount of $3,700.00 to provide and install additional street lighting on Highland Avenue near the WHA School.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)
2. **M/S Wilkening/Moore** to approve of quote from Anderson Brothers in the amount of $12,216.00 to repave loop off of 2nd Street South at Essentia Health Clinic property.
   Roll call: Ayes: Haefele, Hansen, Moore, Wilkening, Worth
   Motion passed (5-0)

Announcements – Mayor Worth

- The Evergreen Cemetery will be conducting clean-up of the Cemetery grounds after September 16, 2025. Cemetery personnel will be removing items from graves, including fresh and artificial flowers. Please remove any items you wish to save prior to September 15, 2025.
- Upcoming meeting dates:
  - Library Advisory Board meeting: 9/09/2025 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: 9/11/2025 at 6:00 p.m. (Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room)
  - Public Works Committee meeting: 9/16/2025 at 7:00 a.m. (City Administrator's Office at Walker City Hall)
  - City Council meeting: 9/18/2025 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Park Advisory Board meeting: 9/23/2025 at 5:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments meeting: 9/29/2025 at 6:00 p.m. (Lower-Level Community Room within the Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library)
  - City Council meeting: 10/06/2025 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 6:27 p.m.

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