

Minutes of the Walker City Council
Monday, April 10, 2023
Walker City Council Chambers

Mayor Bamrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council Present: Kyle Glenn, John Pint, Rob Dunn, and Dianna Thorp. Absent: Paul Nielsen.

Others Present: Kevin Shoop, Rozena McVey, Brandon Mickelson – HR Green, Joe Horaney – Solid Waste Agency, and Mike Becker – East Buchanan Telephone Co-operative.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Bamrick.

Motion/Second by Pint/Dunn to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the following: 4-10-23 agenda, 3-13-23 minutes, accounts payable, March payroll reports, and 1st quarter 2023 payroll reports. 4 ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

Public Hearing: Consider Plans and Specifications and the taking of bids for the City Shop Project – Cancelled as plans are not complete.

Public Hearing: Ordinance 367 - Ordinance 367 - An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walker, Iowa by Amending Provisions pertaining to Water Rates. Opened at 7:01pm. The clerk did receive one comment stating the individual did not think we should raise water rates. No citizens present with comments. Closed at 7:02 pm.

Public Hearing: Ordinance 368 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walker, Iowa by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Sewer Service Charges. Opened at 7:02 pm. The clerk did receive one comment stating the individual did not think we should raise sewer rates. No citizens present with comments. Closed at 7:03 pm.

Linn County Sheriff's Report: We contract for 14 hours per week. They have exceeded the required hours for the last month.

Joe Horaney from Solid Waste Agency gave an update on costs related to garbage and recycling and the future of the landfill operations.

Brandon Mickelson from HR Green presented the Downtown Concept Study to the council. There is a copy available for review at city hall.

Mike Becker from East Buchanan Telephone Co-operative gave an update on the status of the fiber project. They are looking at possibly completing the fiber deployment to Walker this year and will keep us updated.

Mayor: Two building permits were issued. For the May meeting, the council members need to make a list of the properties they want addressed as nuisance properties. We will compile a list at the meeting in May.

Clerk: Written report is available at City Hall. March gross payroll: \$16,215.88. 1st quarter 2023 gross payroll: \$47,003.36. The balance on March 31, 2023, was \$1,168,783.76.

Public Works Technician: Written report is available at City Hall. Also commented there were multiple golf carts in the city park today. Golf carts are specifically prohibited in the city park. We will attempt to contact these individuals and discuss with them. Also, the walking bridge across the waterway at Maple Lane has dropped and needs some repair work done this summer. We will try to combine the cement work here and at the ball diamond together.

Fire Dept: No report.

Council/Committee Reports: No reports.

Open Forum: Rozena McVey wanted to express her thanks to the Walker Fire Department volunteers for their work during the recent storms. We rely on them to notify the citizens of impending storms and they have done an excellent job.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Carly Myers representing the North Linn Honor Society talked to the council about Child Abuse Prevention Month. She provided information and has asked the city to do a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Mayoral Proclamation:

National Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 2021, 2600 reports of child abuse were made in Linn County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS child abuse and neglect are a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the City of Walker, Linn County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cole Bamrick, Mayor of the City of Walker, Iowa, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Walker, Iowa and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Motion/Second by Pint/Glenn to allow Kula's to close the street from 1-4 pm on Saturday, May 20, 2023, for the Teful-Hound Motorcycle Club Charity ride. 4 ayes, motion carried.

Public hearing to consider Plans and Specifications and taking of bids for the City Shop Project has been set for May 8, 2023, at 7 pm.

Motion/Second by Dunn/Pint to approve Resolution 2023-15 – Resolution to Approve the Center Point Library Contract for FY24. Ayes: Glenn, Pint, Dunn, Thorp. Absent: Nielsen. Motion carried.

Motion/Second by Dunn/Glenn to approve the first reading of Ordinance 367 An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walker, Iowa by Amending Provisions pertaining to Water Rates. 4 ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

Public hearing for the second reading of Ordinance 367 has been set for Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7 pm.

Motion/Second by Dunn/Thorp to approve the first reading of Ordinance 368 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walker, Iowa by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Sewer Service Charges. 4 ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

Public hearing for the second reading of Ordinance 368 has been set for Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7 pm.

Public hearing for the FY23 Budget Amendment has been set for Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7 pm.

Motion/Second by Pint/Glenn to approve the 2023 Iowa Women’s Softball League Contract. 4 ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

Motion/Second by Glenn/Dunn to approve the water and wastewater high school internship applicant at a wage of \$20.00 per hour. The city will receive a grant of \$5,000.00 from the Iowa Rural Water Fund Charitable Foundation for this internship. 4 ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

Motion/Second by Glenn/Dunn to approve Resolution 2023-16 – Resolution setting wage for part time employee Roy Blair. His wage will be adjusted to \$15.00 per hour effective immediately. Ayes: Dunn, Thorp, Pint, Glenn. Absent: Nielsen. Motion carried.

Motion/Second by Glenn/Pint to adjourn at 8:24 pm. 4 ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7 pm at the Walker City Council Chambers.

Bills Approved:

US Cellular, phones.....\$304.44
Bank of America, conference, subscriptions,
Postage paid envelopes.....\$1,753.25
Bound Tree Medical, supplies.....\$268.46
Reliant Fire Apparatus, maintenance.....\$2,214.78
Wendling Quarries, rock.....\$946.72
Zippy’s Salt Barn, salt.....\$1,244.88
Casey’s Business Mastercard,
gasoline.....\$104.02
IMFOA, 2023 Spring Conference.....\$125.00
101 Mobility, stair lift.....\$5,050.00
Reliant Fire Apparatus, down payment on
New fire truck.....\$25,000.00
Alliant Energy, utilities.....\$5,773.75
Dearborn Life Ins. Co., employee life.....\$35.49
Mid-American Research Chemical, weed
Spray.....\$7,624.89
Sherbon Construction, repair draining issue
City hall.....\$380.16
Computer Troubleshooters, IT/website
Agreements.....\$548.00
Computer Troubleshooters, domain name
Renewal.....\$250.00
Windstream, telephone/internet.....\$99.68

Julie Andersen, cleaning.....\$105.00
 Gazette Communications, publications.....\$364.39
 Rudd Sanitation, March garbage contract
 Payment.....\$3,842.50
 Builder's Firstsource, supplies.....\$95.50
 Wendling Quarries, rock.....\$618.97
 Eurofins, wastewater testing.....\$1,039.50
 HR Green, engineering.....\$16,405.15
 HR Green, engineering.....\$24,800.00
 Menards, supplies for storm shelter.....\$1,767.29
 Printing Systems, utility bill postcards.....\$306.40
 Rexco Equipment, washer blade/arm.....\$133.00
 Badger Meter, mobile license.....\$1,200.00
 GFOA, annual dues.....\$160.00
 Petty Cash, replenish.....\$40.35
 Kevin Shoop, heater.....\$200.00
 Martin Equipment, beacon.....\$131.06
 Greg Talmage, refund deposit.....\$70.54
 Jennifer Gill, refund credit on acct.....\$210.97
 IAMU, annual dues.....\$723.00
 Grainger, yellow chain, locator.....\$1,045.86
 Dunlap Motors, service 2018 Chevy.....\$204.38
 Storey Kenworthy/Matt Parrott, payroll, and accounts
 Payable checks.....\$471.38
 Treasurer, State of Iowa, 1st quarter state payroll
 Withholding tax.....\$2,027.00
 IRS, March federal payroll withholding
 Tax.....\$3,785.03
 IPERS, March contributions.....\$2,402.08
 Treasurer, State of Iowa, March water excise
 Tax payment.....\$711.93
 TOTAL: \$114,584.80

Revenues for March 2023: General Fund \$8,626.30; Fire Equipment Fund \$4,071; Road Use Fund \$4,564.17; RE Taxes – Employee Benefits Fund \$349.16; RE Taxes – Emergency Levy Fund \$188.23; American Rescue Plan Funds \$2.14; Local Option Sales Tax Fund \$10,198.27; Debt Service Fund \$2,020.58; Water Projects – Restricted Fund \$10.37; Sewer Projects – Restricted Fund \$.37; Streets Project – Restricted Fund \$11.77; Greene St. Water Main/Downtown Project Fund \$60,642.51.; Water Fund \$14,489.65; W/S Deposits Fund \$902.01; Water Sinking Fund \$4,034.74; Sewer Fund \$23,422.10; Sewer Sinking Fund \$9,981.48; Garbage Fund \$3,956.93. TOTAL \$143,404.85.

Expenditures for March 2023: General Fund \$39,458.99; Fire Department Restricted Fund \$25,000.00; Road Use Fund \$6,695.56; American Rescue Plan fund \$17,028.67; Water Fund \$17,028.67; Water Fund Deposits \$150.00; Sewer Fund \$24,901.88; Garbage Fund \$3,842.50. TOTAL \$131,125.47.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Helms, Finance Director, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by:

Cole Bamrick, Mayor