

**Minutes of the Walker City Council**  
**Monday, January 11, 2021**  
**Walker City Council Chambers**

Mayor Voss called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Council Present: Paul Nielsen, Dianna Thorp, John Pint, Kene Shoop, Rob Dunn.

Others Present: Rozena McVey, Bill Norris, Tim Foss, and Deputy Strief.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Voss.

Motion/Second by Nielsen/Shoop to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the following: 1-11-2021 agenda, 12-14-2020 minutes, accounts payable, December payroll reports, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020 payroll reports, 2020 annual payroll reports, renewal of liquor license for Flowers by Shayna. 5 ayes, motion carried.

Linn County Sheriff's Report: Our contract is for 61.0 hours per month and they were in Walker for 92.40 hours since the last meeting.

Mayor: There were no building permits issued. We were able to purchase 2 sets of tow straps and shackles, 1 for the city and 1 for the fire department, at a good discount.

Clerk: Written report is available at City Hall. The December gross payroll was \$17,062.79. The ending balance on December 31, 2020 was \$1,107,708.21.

Public Works Technician: Written report is available at City Hall.

Fire Dept: In December there was 1 call for service, and in 2020 our total calls were 63. So far 5 members of the department have gotten the COVID-19 vaccination. During the fall of 2020, the wind knocked down the bell tower. The department is working on a design for a new memorial that incorporates a new bell tower. The bell was on loan from the McKee family as was returned to them on December 26, 2020. The department also received a nice donation from Blue Creek Christmas.

Council/Committee Reports: Council member Nielsen stated he has reviewed the financial reports.

Open Forum: Tim Foss discussed his water billing from December with the council. His new furnace in the basement went out and he had not been in the building for several days, and unfortunately, during that time, a water pipe froze and burst. He is wondering if the city would be willing to work with him on the bill. Council has asked for this to be placed on the next agenda for consideration. Rozena McVey wanted to express her thoughts on Mayor and Council compensations. She has spent 40+ years working with the city and the council and there were times where it was very unorganized and without good agendas. Citizens are often unruly and out of control. We now have rules in place that allow them 5 minutes to state their concerns and questions. The job of Mayor is not always fun. The Mayor takes most of the complaints even though the council is the body making the decisions. We used to have 2 meetings per month, but the city clerk has been able to organize things so that we can do what we need in one meeting a month. She states she knows that Mayor Voss has been through some trying times this past year as well as the council with COVID-19.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion/Second by Shoop/Pint to change the February meeting date to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Connie will be out of the office from January 26 – February 9 except for coming in to send out water bills the first couple days of February. 5 ayes, motion carried.

Connie updated the council on the status of the water meter reading software update. She will keep them posted.

Motion/Second by Dunn/Shoop to write off the balance of \$269.46 on water/sewer account 000090511000. 5 ayes, motion carried.

Motion/Second by Dunn/Thorp to approve Resolution 2021-1 – Resolution approving the final plat for Lowell Meier 1<sup>st</sup> addition – Plat of Survey No. 2500. Ayes: Nielsen, Thorp, Dunn, Shoop, Pint. Motion carried.

Motion/Second by Dunn/Nielsen to approve Resolution 2021-2 – Resolution approving the Linn County Sheriff's contract for FY22 for 14 hours/week at a rate of \$38.00/hour. Ayes: Shoop, Dunn, Thorp, Pint, Nielsen. Motion carried.

Motion/Second by Dunn/Shoop to purchase additional Christmas lights up to a maximum of \$5,000.00 and with the contingency of Alliant providing the power on the light poles. 5 ayes, motion carried.

Discussion regarding mayor compensation was held. Council consensus was to increase from \$250.00 to \$300.00 per month. Connie will get an ordinance prepared for the February meeting for final review and to set public hearing.

Discussion regarding council compensation was held. Council consensus was to leave at \$25.00/city council meeting but add \$25.00 for each additional meeting or training attended that is not a regularly scheduled city council meeting. Connie will get an ordinance prepared for the February meeting for final review and to set public hearing.

FY22 budget is ready to go based on the feedback and requests from council.

Public hearing for SF634 – Max Levy Resolution for FY22 budget is set for Monday, February 15, 2021 at 7:05 pm.

Motion/Second by Pint/Dunn to adjourn at 8:31 pm. 5 ayes, motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 15, 2021 at 7 pm at the Walker City Council Chambers.

**Bills Approved:**

Bank of America, arlo, adobe, dropbox.....\$431.93  
Casey's Business MasterCard, gas.....\$124.96  
Hawkins, Inc., chlorine.....\$116.00  
Hygienic Lab, water testing.....\$215.50  
Linn Co-op Oil Co., diesel, diesel tank  
lease.....\$1,519.94  
Mid-American Research Chemical, de-icer,  
Lift station degreaser.....\$972.00  
UMB, 2011 GO Bond fee.....\$250.00  
UMB, 2015 GO Bond fee.....\$250.00  
US Cellular, phones, tablet.....\$395.44  
Alliant Energy, utilities.....\$5,300.37  
Alex Air Apparatus, supplies.....\$230.00  
Center Point Farm & Auto, LED light.....\$29.39  
Fox Apparatus Repair, repair #305.....\$161.00  
Russell Gager, water line repair.....\$595.00  
Eurofins dba TestAmerica, wwtp testing.....\$971.25  
Office Depot, W-2 forms.....\$56.02  
Zippy's Salt Barn, road salt.....\$1,229.22

Computer Troubleshooters, IT/website  
Agreements.....\$445.00  
City of Central City, salt/sand mix.....\$795.50  
Woodward Community Media, publications.....\$170.43  
Metering & Technology Solutions, water meters/  
radio readers.....\$1,842.47  
Rudd Sanitation, Nov. 2020 municipal contract  
Payment.....\$3,871.50  
TOTAL: \$19,972.92

Revenues for December 2020: General Fund \$26,869.65; Fire Equipment \$2.42; Road Use Fund \$9,700.74; RE Taxes – Employee Benefits \$475.82; RE Taxes – Emergency Levy \$259.54; Local Option Sales Tax Fund -\$7,450.24; Debt Service Fund \$3,075.32; Water Projects – Restricted \$4.48; Sewer Projects – Restricted \$31,523.08; Streets Project – Restricted \$5.82; Water Fund \$14,689.47; W/S Deposits \$300.62; Water Sinking Fund \$4,879.09; Sewer Fund \$23,248.27; Sewer Sinking Fund \$10,024.96; Garbage Fund \$3,880.94. TOTAL \$121,489.98.

Expenditures for December 2020: General Fund \$20,219.68; Road Use Fund \$14,445.13; Debt Service \$500.00; Water Fund \$12,114.16; Water Fund Deposits \$150.00; Water Sinking Fund \$8,520.00; Sewer Fund \$20,367.09; Sewer Sinking Fund \$19,110.00; Garbage \$3,990.00. TOTAL \$99,416.06.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Helms, City Clerk

Approved by:

James Voss, Mayor