

**WALKER CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD.
MARCH 8, 2010**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mayor VerHeulen called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Versluis, seconded by Holt, to open the public hearing for the Confirmation of Roll, Authorizing Execution of 1569 Benning Ave NW Single Lot Special Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant City Manager Schmalzel reported that this public hearing is in compliance with the resolution approved at the February 22, 2010 meeting for the Special Assessment Roll to be reviewed by the Commission for the collection of \$434.54 in connection with a nuisance violation at 1569 Benning Ave NW. No public comment was given.

Motion by Deschaine, seconded by Kent, to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Commission reviewed the items on the agenda.

Motion by Holt, seconded by Versluis, to open the public hearing for revocation of Certificate #2001-432 real portion only of Industrial Facilities Exemption for Dedinas & Franzak Enterprises Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Vander Meulen reviewed the proposed resolution. Cheeze Kurls Inc moved in August of 2009 within the City of Walker and vacated their facility that held an IFT certificate. This will move the real property to the ad valorem roll for 2010. No public comment was given.

Motion by Parent, seconded by Kent, to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Holt, seconded by Versluis, to open the public hearing for transfer of Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate #2001-432 personal portions only from 3711 Dykstra Dr NW to 2915 Walkent Dr NW under provisions of Act 198 for Dedinas & Franzak Enterprises Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Parent, seconded by Kent, to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Sue Wyngaarden, Varnum Law, reviewed Resolution #10-129 authorizing the issuance by the City of Walker of its \$825,000 Michigan Transportation Fund Bonds, Series 2010 (General Obligation – Limited Tax); Authorizing the Pledge of the Limited Tax, Full Faith and Credit of the City of Walker for the Payment of said Bonds; and approving other actions in connection therewith.

Commissioner Parent discussed a concern he had received from a business owner regarding the City's policies for sidewalk installation in commercial/industrial areas. He inquired as to if there were means that the Commission could take to alleviate hardship on a potential new business or building coming to the City if they were required to install sidewalks as part of their site plan. The Commission discussed their thoughts and directed the Community Development Department to provide thoughts on options/solutions.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING:

Mayor VerHeulen called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Parent gave the invocation and the Deputy City Clerk called the roll.

Present: Mayor Rob VerHeulen, Commissioners: Al Parent, Charles Deschaine, Barb Holt, Steve Versluis, and Dan Kent. Also present: City Manager Vander Meulen, and Assistant City Manager Schmalzel.

Absent: Commissioner Cyndy Stek

Motion by Deschaine, seconded by Holt, to approve Commission meeting minutes of 2-22-10. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Pastor Butler, Gospel Light Baptist Church, spoke of his concern regarding the registration of churches within the City of Walker. He had no problem with providing emergency contact information but the proposed changes to the current ordinance require an annual registration of noncommercial enterprises and he will not be registering if this becomes an ordinance. He inquired as to what the template was for such an ordinance? Mayor VerHeulen clarified that other communities in Kent County have similar ordinances and that the City is not licensing churches, the sole purpose is to gather emergency contact information for the Fire and Police Departments.

Ruth Harper spoke to her concern of written implications and how future Commissions will implement the law. She objects to the new language proposed at the Ordinance Committee meeting held earlier this evening.

Paul Schaut, 195 Maynard Ave SW, would like the resolution for the Standale Trails tabled until everyone has the opportunity to discuss all the issues. He stated that he is the lowest house and is concerned about drainage issues, liability issues, and where the money will come from to maintain the trails.

Steve Reid, 2429 Elmridge Dr NW, stated his concern regarding no publication of this resolution in the paper or newsletter and the issuance of a bond with no public knowledge. He would also like the issue tabled until further discussion can be held and the citizens can be informed. This will affect property values, safety issues and liability issues need to be addressed.

Jean King, President of Friends of Walker Highland Trails, thanked the Commission for their commitment to staying true to the process and thanked Staff and Commission for maintaining professionalism and integrity throughout.

Mayor VerHeulen clarified that the bond resolution is for projects on 3 Mile Rd and is separate from the Standale Trails resolution.

Motion by Kent, seconded by Versluis, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$1,068,877.61. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Parent, seconded by Holt, to approve Firework Permit for the DeltaPlex Arena for an event held on March 26, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kent, seconded by Holt, to approve Resolution 10-123 for revocation of Certificate #2001-432 real portion only of IFT Certificate for Dedinas & Franzak Enterprises Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Parent, seconded by Versluis, to approve Resolution 10-124 for transfer of IFT Certificate #2001-432 personal portions only from 3711 Dykstra Dr NW to 2915 Walkent Dr NW under provisions of Act 198 for Dedinas & Franzak Enterprises Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Holt, seconded by Versluis, to approve Resolution 10-125 in support of the findings and recommendations of the Michigan Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kent, seconded by Parent, to approve Resolution 10-126 for certification of Waybury Street between Cloverdale Avenue and Clayton Avenue (322 feet). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Versluis, seconded by Deschaine, to approve Resolution 10-127 to approve a contract between the City of Walker and the Michigan Department of Transportation to construct the Fred Meijer Standale Trail. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Holt, seconded by Kent, to approve Resolution 10-128 to amend the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 City of Walker Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deschaine, seconded by Holt, to approve Resolution 10-129 authorizing the issuance by the City of Walker of its \$825,000 Michigan Transportation Fund Bonds, Series 2010 (General Obligation – Limited Tax); Authorizing the Pledge of the Limited Tax, Full Faith and Credit of the City of Walker for the Payment of said Bonds; and approving other actions in connection therewith. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Versluis, seconded by Kent, to approve Resolution 10-130 for 1569 Benning Ave NW Single Lot Special Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kent, seconded by Parent, to approve second reading including amendment to sign ordinance of ORD 10-579 to amend sections 94-171, 94-61, 94-5, 94-406, 94-407, 94-409, 94-412, and 94-413 of Chapter 94 of the Code of Ordinances. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Parent, seconded by Holt, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Bales
Deputy City Clerk