

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Walton City Council

July 1, 2019

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Barry Wentz. A moment of silence was observed. Members present: Jeremy Ashby, Tony Wheeler, Janet Wentz, Chris Deschner, and Debbie Robinson. Staff present: Stephanie Ashby, Merlyn Johnson, Jim Gillmore

Presentations of Petitions, Public Forums, Memorials:

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of June Regular Meeting were **Approved as Presented.**

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USD 373 school boards members & staff presented the proposed bond issue. Question #1 \$61,320,000 would provide upgrades to NHS, storm shelters and security improvements to the remaining schools, with limited work done at Walton. Question #2 \$24,420,000 would build a new school south of Hwy 50. The plan is to move the AG curriculum and close Walton. More information regarding the bond can be found on USD373.org

Members of the council & city staff were allowed to ask questions before public forum.

Councilwoman Robinson asked if Walton school was going to be closed no matter what the outcome of bond was. School Board member Toby Tyner responded "the short answer, yes". Robinson replied "So what you are saying is Walton does not win either way. You close the school and our property values go down, and if the bond is approved our property taxes go up. That is a lose lose situation for Walton. Tyner agreed.

Councilwoman Wentz asked why build a new elementary school if the need is at the high school. Superintendent of schools responded the reason is for the security feature upgrades; Tyner interjected and surmised that the purpose of the new school is to support growth in future years and support the AG program.

Councilman Wheeler wanted to know if the design for the upgrades and school were not complete, how the school board can promise they will not change any of the detail of the way the bond is currently written. Hamm noted that they have a lot of eyes monitoring their actions and they will do their best to stay on track with the proposed bond.

Councilman Ashby stated that he appreciated the school board taking time out to come to Walton. However he stated there was a lack of transparency with the school board and staff. The clerk added on that a 3 stage comprehensive plan to build a new school for Walton was in the works back in 2013,

however there has been no mention since and the modular building that was brought in to be a temporary structure for 3 years is still in use. She also wanted to know what will become of the Walton Charter Foundation. A foundation created to accept donations for Walton Rural Life Center. Hamm responded "The money will follow the AG program to the new school".

Public Forum was Opened 7:22PM & Closed at 7:48 PM.

Amanda Graham wanted to know if Question #2 fails and no new school is built. What a guestimate on the life expectancy of Walton school will be, with the district planning on nothing being done to Walton school. Hamm stated that the life expectancy on a brick building is approx. 100years with the school being built in 1962. The Morton (modular) building is currently being rebuilt and has an expectancy of 40 to 60 years. The Morton building when it was originally obtained was not anticipated to hold more than 200+ people. Graham also wanted to know if the overcrowding issue they stated at the Newton elementary schools was reason that Walton school was currently at max capacity or is it due to request for students to attend Walton. Hamm responded that it is a mixture of both. That all the schools are divided equally. An example is Walton's Kindergarten class is built for 2 classes of 25. Based off enrollment that year there would have only been enough students for 2 classes of 12. Not filling the requirement. Due to that they had students bussed in from other schools to fulfill the required class sizes.

John Esau was concerned that new school south of Hwy 50 would not have a band or orchestra program for students. Hamm said that there would be those programs if the new school is built.

The Company handling the property at 104 N. Second has been working on cleaning up the property and several trailer loads have been removed from the premise date.

The Budget Hearing is scheduled for Monday August 12th at 6:30pm

Reports Staff & Committees:

Attorney's Report: N/A

Superintendent's Report: Attached, An estimate from Black Hills for \$15800.60 to rebuild the town border station needs to be included in the 2020 budget.

Mayor's Report: N/A

Police Report: N/A

Clerk's Report: Will be going on vacation from July 24th to July 29th. Shannon will be covering office. Reminder Shannon is due August 28th.

Boards & Committees: Summer Reading is July 19th. Walton Methodist Church is having a 100 years celebration on July 20th. Revitalize Walton has dissolved and will work under the Lions Club. The fire dept. was donated an ambulance that will be used as Squad 71. Tim Ryan is heading the Walton Rural

Life Festival with the School. The Festival is Oct. 5th. Fish Fry is Nov. 2nd. City Wide Clean Up is Sept. 27th and a brush pick up has been scheduled for Sept ember 13th.

New Business:

Business Updates: Blood Drive August 27th 12:30 to 6:30, Office Closed July 4th.

Executive Session-

Mayor Wentz moves the city council and city clerk (just for small portion) recess into executive session pursuant to K.S.A 75-4319, in order to discuss Non-elected personnel the open meeting to resume in the city council chamber at 8:23 PM.” Wentz Seconded. Carried 5-0

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Regular meeting resumed at 8:25pm

Items for Upcoming Meeting:

Meeting Adjourned 8:29 pm